

16

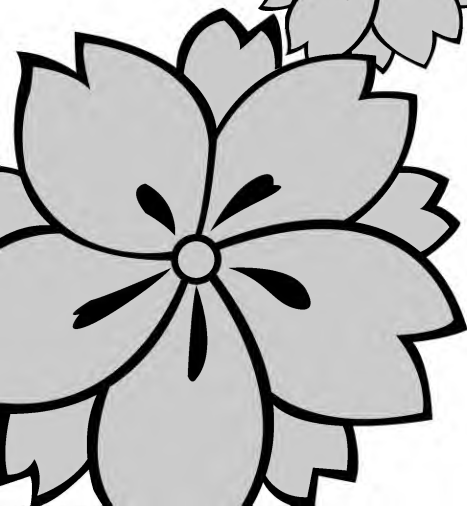
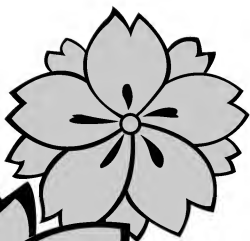
Yozakura Quartet

Suzuhito
Yasuda



YOZAKURA
QUARTET

16



A RAMBUNCTIOUS, MOODY, ALMOND-EYED, NOODLE/COMEDY-LOVING, HEALTHY, SOUND-SLEEPING, SCARF-CLAD, PONYTAILED DEMON HIGH SCHOOLER AND THE MAYOR OF SAKURASHIN. LATELY, SHE'S STARTED LEARNING HOW TO COOK IN AN EFFORT TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT, EVEN SO, IT SEEMS SHE STILL LOVES AKINA'S COOKING THE MOST.



**HIME
YARIZAKURA**



**AKINA
HIIZUMI**

THE DIRECTOR OF THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. AS ABOUT 20% OF HIS WORKDAY GOES INTO MAKING FOOD FOR HIME AND HIS EMPLOYEES, HE'S OFTEN IN THE OFFICE VERY LATE.

Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

YOZAKURA QUARTET

CHARACTER
PROFILE

AN EMPLOYEE OF THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE'S AS MUCH OF A RICE FANATIC AS HIME IS A NOODLE FANATIC. THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY MEAN BY "TWO GREAT RIVALS CANNOT COEXIST."

**KOTOHA
ISONO**



A PART-TIME WORKER AT THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE WEARS GLASSES, IS INTO GIRLS, AND HAS BIG BOOBS, AMONG OTHER CLICHÉS, BUT SHE ALSO HAS THE MOST REFRESHING PERSONALITY.

**AO
NANAMI**



**KYOSUKE
KISHI**



HIME'S ASSISTANT AND OVERSEER (BABYSITTER). HE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF BOTH HIME AND TOUKA, SO HIS DAYS ARE FILLED WITH STRESS.

**TOUKA
KISHI**



KYOSUKE'S YOUNGER SISTER AND THE FAIRER HALF OF THE TWO ONI SIBLINGS. THAT SAID, SHE LEADS THE MOST NORMAL LIFE, AS BEFITTING A HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL. SHE USED TO DO ARCHERY, BUT NOW PRACTICES AIKIDO.

**ENJIN
HIIZUMI**



A DESCENDANT OF ENYOU HIIZUMI. HE TOOK OVER THE BODY OF GIN, AO'S OLDER BROTHER, AND HE IS PLANNING TO MAKE THE SEVEN PILLARS BLOOM IN ORDER TO MERGE THE TWO DIMENSIONS.

THE LAND GOD OF SAKURASHIN. SHE CAN OFTEN BE SEEN LOITERING AROUND TOWN, SO SHE'S NOT THE MOST DIGNIFIED DEITY.



**YAE
SHINATSUHIKO**

THE DISTRICT MAYOR WHO COORDINATES THE TOWNS. HE IS ALSO A LAND GOD. DEEP DOWN, HE IS A PERVERTED OLD MAN.



**YUI
SHINATSUHIKO**

A DEMON, DOCTOR AND TOWN ICON. SHE HAS BEEN ABSTAINING FROM SHOW BUSINESS LATELY.

JURI



YUI'S SECRETARY. SHE IS ALWAYS ORDERED TO COSPLAY, BUT SHE SEEMS TO ENJOY IT. SHE IS ALSO JURI'S GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER.

MARIABELL



JURI'S YOUNGER SISTER. A WITCH/MAGICIAN WITH A SISTER COMPLEX.

LILA



**IRUKA
KUJOIN**

A SWIMSUIT-CLAD DEMON BLADE USER. SORT OF A SPACE CASE, BUT SUPER STRONG.



**ZAKURO
KURUMAKI**

RIN'S FORMER MASTER AND A NECROMANCER, SHE ATTACKED SAKURASHIN IN ORDER TO TAKE BACK RIN BUT WAS THWARTED AND REFORMED.



**RIN
AZUMA**

A JIANGSHI WHO WORKS AT A RAMEN RESTAURANT. IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S ALWAYS SLACKING OFF, BUT SHE'S SURPRISINGLY DILIGENT. WAS KIDNAPPED BUT RETURNED SAFELY.

HE IS A COP, BUT EVERYONE TENDS TO FORGET THAT FACT. HE IS BUSY WATCHING OVER MINA AND KANA.

**SHIDOU
MIZUKI**



POLICE

**NADESHIKO
MATSUDAIRA**



TWINS WHO ARE MERMAID-VAMPIRE HYBRIDS. THEY GROW WHEN THEY IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN WATER.

**KANA
TATEBAYASHI**

**MINA
TATEBAYASHI**



**TAKAO
TAKEMURA**



**USUZUMI
IYO'**



**UZU
KIBUNE**



SENATE

**MURASAKI
IYO'**



**SHIDARE
MORIOKA**



**NORIKO
SHIINA**



OUTLINE

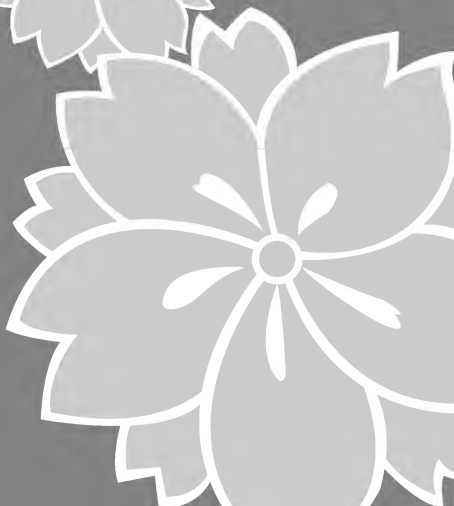
THE YAMABIKO'S ATTACK HAS LEFT KOTOHA INJURED AND THE SENATE IN HALF- RUIN. FAR BELOW ITS SURFACE, AKINA AND COMPANY FIND A MYSTERIOUS MECHANISM WITH THE NAMES OF THEIR RELATIVES CARVED ONTO IT...

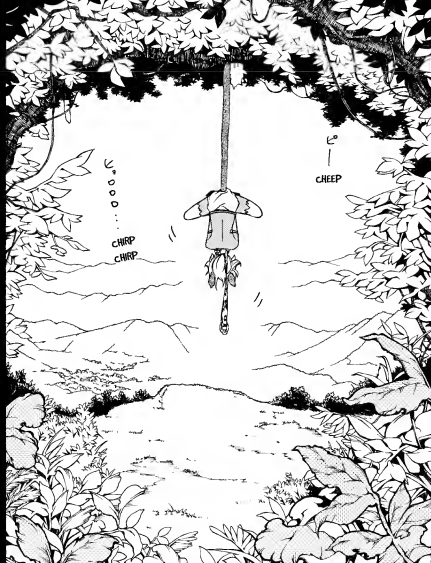
YOZAKURA QUARTET

C O N T E N T S

16

007	<i>KOTONODAMA (PART SIX)</i>
035	<i>KOTONODAMA (PART SEVEN)</i>
067	<i>KOTONODAMA (PART EIGHT)</i>
103	<i>KOTONODAMA (PART NINE)</i>
151	<i>KOTONODAMA (PART TEN)</i>
194	<i>KOTONODAMA (EPILOGUE)</i>
257	EXTRA





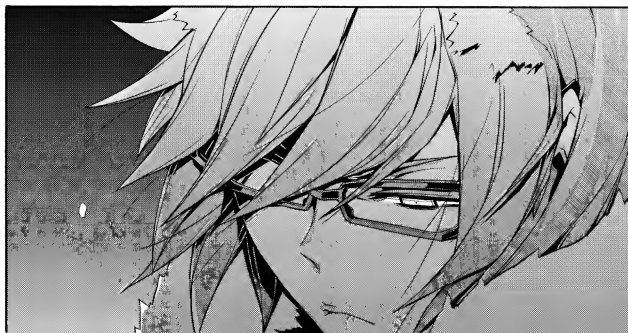
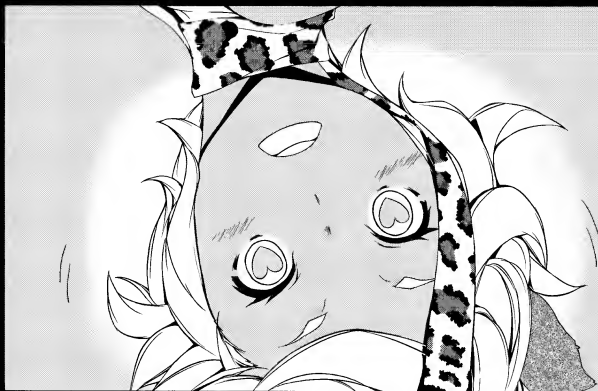
NOT THAT
I REALLY
EXPECT
YOU TO
COME
QUIETLY.

MIND
COMING
WITH ME?

YAMA-
BIKO, THE
MORTAL
ENEMY OF
KOTODAMA
USERS...



OH, WELL.
I'LL JUST
DROP YOU
FIRST AND
MAKE YOU
A DEMON
HUNTER,
THEN—





**BUST-
ED!**

**rustle
rustle**

...HEY.



JOBT
7
3

HAUH ...

TH-
THERE
WAS
THIS
HUGE
THING,
AND...

HYAH!

HOW'D
IT GO
BELOW
THE SEN-
ATE?

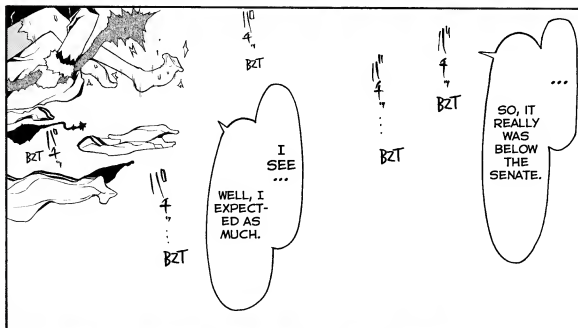
SNATCH



HYAH!

BZZT

DON'T BOTH-
ER.



HO
4
BZT

HO
4
...
BZT

HO
4
BZT

I
SEE
...

WELL, I
EXPECT-
ED AS
MUCH.

HO
4
...
BZT

...
SO, IT
REALLY
WAS
BELOW
THE
SENATE.



HA-
WAH
...

HMPH.

GOOD
WORK.





An aerial, black-and-white photograph of a city, likely Tokyo, showing a dense grid of buildings and streets. A large, white, vertically-oriented oval speech bubble is positioned on the left side of the image, containing the text "...WHO KNOWS?". The city is viewed from a high angle, and the image has a grainy, halftone texture.

...WHO
KNOWS?

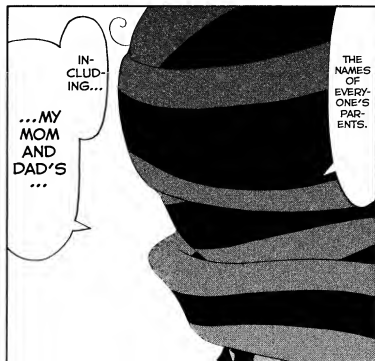
#86

KOTONODAMA (PART SIX)



...TEND
TO FREEZE
WHEN TOO
MUCH
HAPPENS
AT ONCE,
HUH?

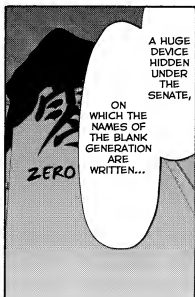
...
PEOPLE'S
BRAINS...



IN-
CLUD-
ING...

...MY
MOM
AND
DAD'S
...

THE
NAMES
OF
EVERY-
ONE'S
PAR-
ENTS.

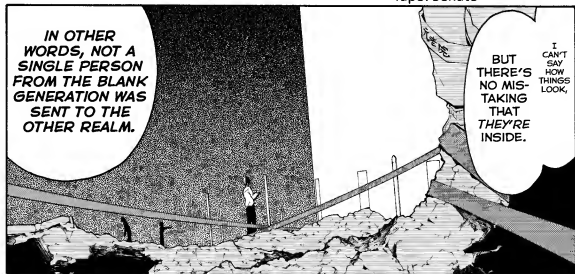


A HUGE
DEVICE
HIDDEN
UNDER
THE
SENATE,

ON
WHICH THE
NAMES OF
THE BLANK
GENERATION
ARE
WRITTEN...



Tape: Senate





ALL
THE
NAMES
MATCH
UP...



WHAT
COULD
THIS
MEAN?

ONLY
THESE
TWO HAVE
BEEN LEFT
BLANK.



WHEN
ARE THEY
GOING TO
TELL US
EVERY-
THING?

FOR
START-
ERS, THE
SENATE
IS BE-
HIND ALL
OF THIS,
RIGHT?

SO?
WHEN
WILL YOU
KNOW
EVERY-
THING?

SO, HE
WANTS US TO
WAIT UNTIL
SHIDARE-SAN
REGAINS CON-
SCIOUSNESS.

SHIDARE-
SAN
PLANNED
TO EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING
WHEN THE
TIME WAS
RIGHT.

AC-
CORD-
ING TO
THE
REPRE-
SENTA-
TIVE,



LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE BLANK GENERATION AND THAT DEVICE FOR THE TIME BEING.

する
する
する SWF
SWF

THAT MAKES THINGS EASY.

AND ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT?

YUP.

YUP.

THEN WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING?

...I SEE.

RIGHT NOW, WE SHOULD FOCUS ON DEFEATING HER!

KOTOHA'S NEMESIS, THE YAMABIKO, IS ATTACKING.

SOUNDS GOOD.

IT'S
EASIER TO MO-
BILIZE
IF WE
STAY
HERE.

IT'S
FINE.

ARE YOU
SURE IT'S
OKAY IF
NEITHER
YOU NOR
AKINA-SAN
ARE WITH
HER?

HOME.
AO'S
TAKING
CARE
OF
HER.

WHERE
IS
KOTOHA-
CHAN
NOW?

AND
SHE HAS
BODY-
GUARDS
WITH
HER.

Sign: Isona

THERE,
THERE...

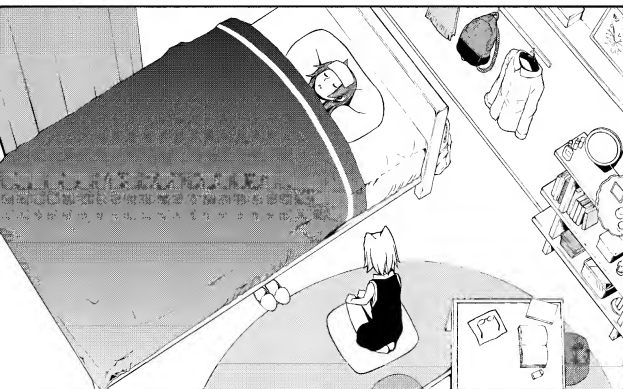
SIGH...
I'M SO
NER-
VOUS.

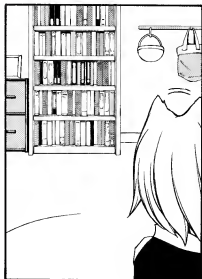
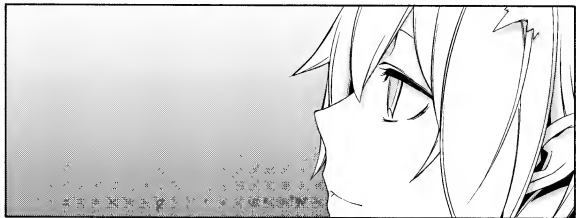
YOU'RE
PLENTY
STRONG

THAT'S
NOT
TRUE.

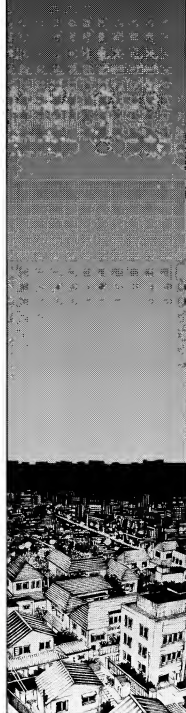
I'M SO
WEAK,
AFTER
ALL...

I FEEL
LIKE I'LL
JUST GET
IN YOUR
WAY,
IRUKA-
SAN.









DON'T
WORRY.

I'LL
PROTECT
YOU...

...AND
YOUR
BOOKS,
KOTOHA-
CHAN.

BZZT



SHIDOU'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE
OFF DUTY,
BUT
HE GOT
CALLED
IN.

MMH!
THE
DUCK
TASTES
GOOD.

かきかき
NOM
NOM

SOME-
THING
SEEMS
FISHY
ABOUT
TONIGHT
...



THAT
MEANS
ENJIN-
CHAN
MIGHT
BE,
TOO
...

A
DEMON
HUNTER
IS SUP-
POSEDLY
OUT AND
ABOUT,
AFTER
ALL.



UPS!

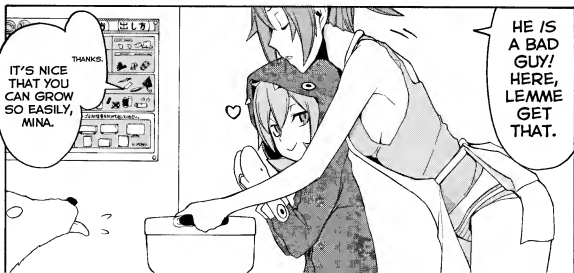
よいしょん

I JUST
DON'T
THINK
HE'S AS
BAD
AS HE
SEEMS
...



I'M
NOT.

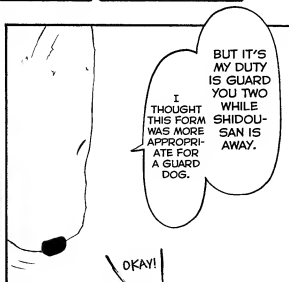
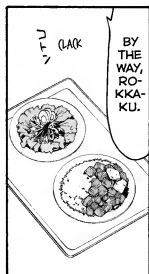
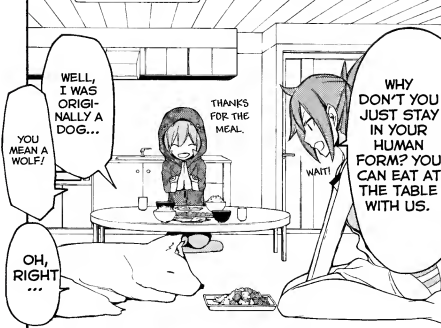
ENJIN-
CHAN?!
WHEN
DID YOU
GET ALL
FRIENDLY
WITH
HIM?!

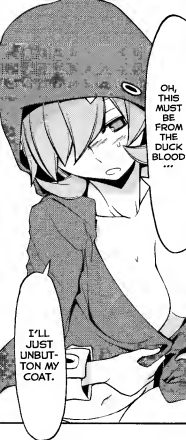


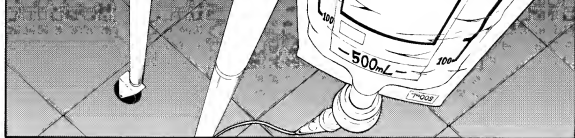
IT'S NICE
THAT YOU
CAN GROW
SO EASILY,
MINA.

THANKS.

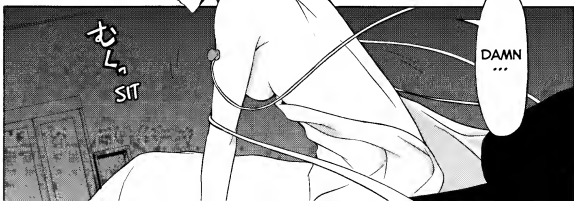
HE IS
A BAD
GUY!
HERE,
LEMMIE
GET
THAT.

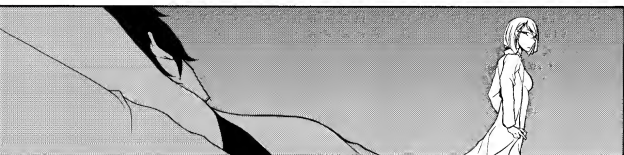






Sign: Shiina







SOME-
ONE...

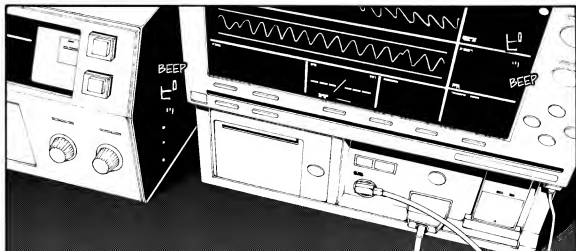
...NEEDS
TO BE
TAUGHT
A LESS-
ON.



...AND
EVEN
PLAY
THE
DEVIL'S
ADVOCATE.

NOW
LOOK
AT
YOU.

YOU GO
PLOTING
SOMETHING
IN THE
SHADOWS,
BOTTLED
UP...





...THIS
ISN'T
THE
RIGHT
TIME
FOR
THAT.

BUT...



OUT?

I'D LIKE
YOU TO
RELAY
SOME-
THING
FOR
ME...
HM?

YES, I
CAME
TO A
MOMENT
AGO.

HELLO?
UZU-
SAN?

YES.

BRRR

7 IL IL IL

WHERE
TO?

COMI-
ING!

五十音

ピ
ン
DING
ホ
ン
DONG

Sign: Isone

キ
ン
...
CREAK

O-OH,
RIGHT.

CLACK

GASP

ZAKU-
RO-
SAN,

ARE YOU
SURE YOU
SHOULD
JUST ANSWER
THE DOOR LIKE
THAT?

JUST
A MO-
MENT.

KER

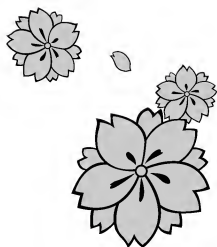
CHAK





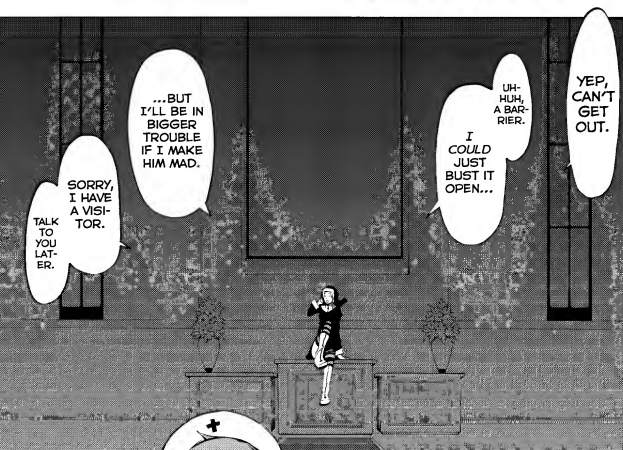
NOW,
THEN.
SHALL
WE HAVE
TEA?

SO, I
BROUGHT
A SET.



YOZAKURA
QUARTET 16







I'D JUST GET IN THE WAY.

I'M BACK-UP THIS TIME.

YOU'RE NOT GOING, JURI?



I'LL TAKE THE SODA.

WOW, YOU LOOK LIKE A MIME.
HERE, REFRESHMENTS.



WEEEH.

3
2
1
PLAP

SEE FOR YOURSELF.



FOR NOW, ANYWAY.



GUESS YOU COULD SAY THEY'RE GOOD ON COMBAT STRENGTH.

ZAKURO-CHAN AND IRUKA-CHAN JOINED THE TEAM, TOO.

WELL, EVERYONE HAS GOTTEN STRONGER.



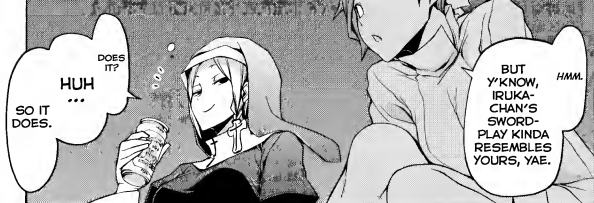
WEAP-ON.

SHE CAN'T UNLEASH EVEN HALF HER FULL STRENGTH UNLESS SHE'S SERIOUS.

PIL-L-OW?

SHE'S THE KIND OF GIRL WHO CAN'T SLEEP WITH A DIFFERENT PILLOW.

BUT IRUKA'S STILL KINDA ERRATIC.
SHE'S NO HELP WHEN SHE'S OFF.



DOES
IT?

HUH

SO IT
DOES.

BUT
Y'KNOW,
IRUKA-
CHAN'S
SWORD-
PLAY KINDA
RESEMBLES
YOURS, YAE.

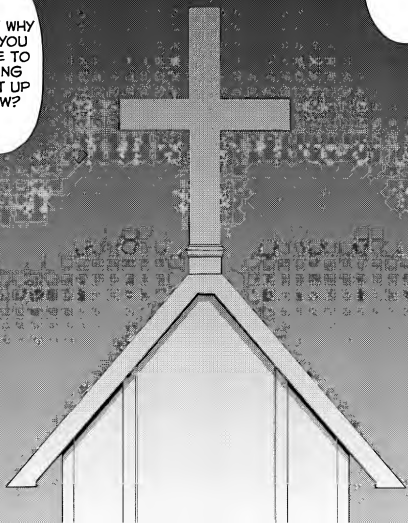
HMM.

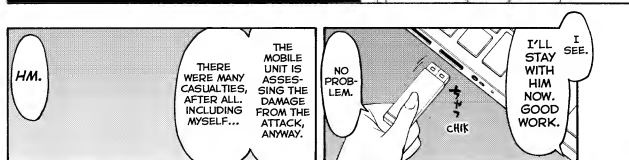
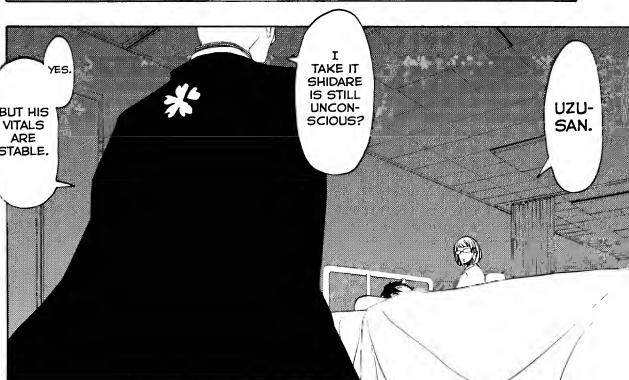
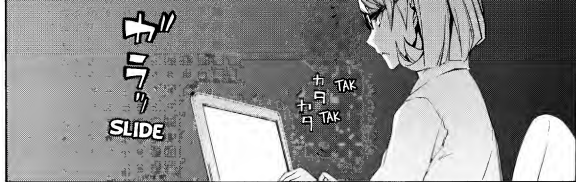
#87 KOTONODAMA (PART SEVEN)

AAH! WHY
DO YOU
HAVE TO
BRING
THAT UP
NOW?
YOU
BIG
DRUNK!

HAVE
YOU
FOUND
YOURSELF
A DECENT
GUY YET,
JURI?

NEVER
MIND
THAT.





...THE
TIME TO
FULFILL
OUR DUTY
WILL SOON
BE UPON
US,

SHI-
DARE.

AS
THE TWO
MEMBERS
OF THE
BLANK
GENERATION
WHO WERE
LEFT BE-
HIND...



LOOK
AFTER
THE
OFFICE,
HIME.

M'KAY.
I'M
POPPING
OUT FOR
A BIT.



WITH
WHO?
YAE-
SAN?

I
MADE
PLANS
TO SPAR
TO-NIGHT.

IRUKA
TAUGHT
ME THE
BASICS.
NOW I
JUST
HAVE TO
PUT 'EM
TO USE.

I'M
BANNED
FROM
USING
TUNING,
RIGHT?
SO I HAVE
TO USE
SLAYMAN
HERE IN-
STEAD.

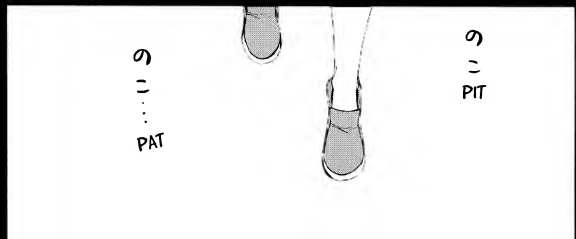
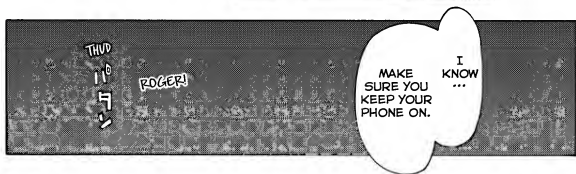
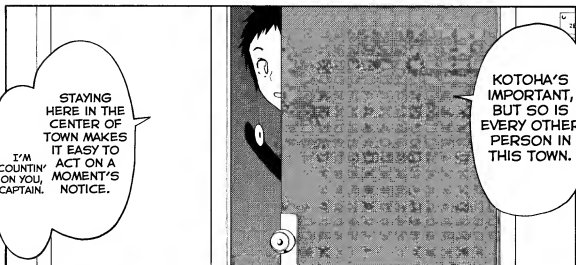
HM?

NAH.



WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

JUST A
LITTLE
TRAIN-
ING.





Sign: Sakurashin Shopping District



HAVE YOU BOTH MEMORIZED THIS TOWN'S LAY-OUT?

LET'S GO DOWN THAT NARROW ROAD!

THIS IS A SHORT-CUT.



I'M
SURE
YOU'LL
PICK
IT UP
QUICK.

NO ONE
GETS A
FEEL
FOR THE
TOWN BY
MEMORI-
ZING
MAPS.

THAT'S NO
GOOD. YOU
HAVE TO
ACTUALLY
TO WALK
AROUND.

MAP?



I KEEP
LOOKING
AT THE
MAP,
BUT IT
DOESN'T
STICK
AT ALL.



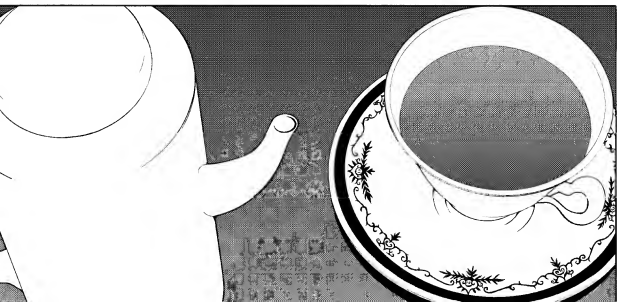
...OH.

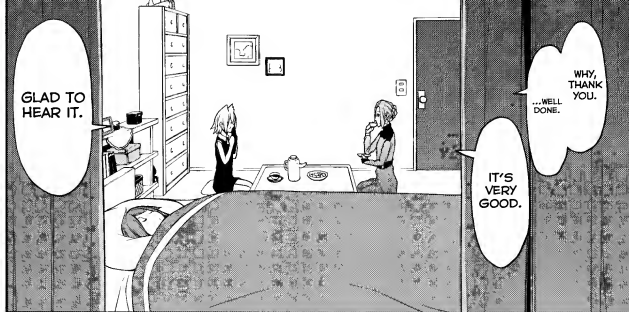


GLADLY!

WILL YOU
GO FOR
WALKS
WITH ME
EVERY DAY,
THEN, AO?

JUST
UNTIL I
LEARN
THE
WHOLE
TOWN.





GLAD TO
HEAR IT.

WHY,
THANK
YOU.
...WELL
DONE.

IT'S
VERY
GOOD.



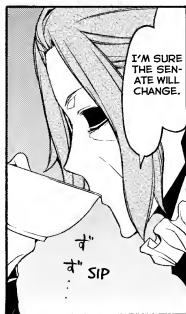
THANKS
...

IM-
PRES-
SIVE.



AND
WITHOUT
RELYING
ON THE
SATORI
POWER,
TOO.

IT
TAKES
AN AT-
TENTIVE
MIND TO
MAKE A
GOOD CUP OF
TEA,
AS WELL
AS A CONSID-
ERATE TOUCH.



I'M SURE
THE SEN-
ATE WILL
CHANGE.

す
す
... SIP



WELL, IT
WAS A
GOOD WAY
TO SHAKE
THINGS UP
FOR THE
LAZIER
STAFF
MEMBERS.

THE
PLACE
IS MUCH
BREEZIER
NOW,
THANKS
TO HER.

THE
YAMA-
BIKO,
YOU
MEAN.

I HEAR
KOTOHA-
CHAN'S
MORTAL
ENEMY
ATTACKED
THE
SENATE.



TELL
HER TO
READ
IT, WILL
YOU?
HAS.



HUH?

I
SHOULD
GET
GOING.
THANKS
FOR
HAVING
ME.



HERE.
THIS
IS FOR
HER
WHEN
SHE
WAKES
UP.



PLUS ...



WELL,
SHE'S
NOT
WAK-
ING
UP, IS
SHE?

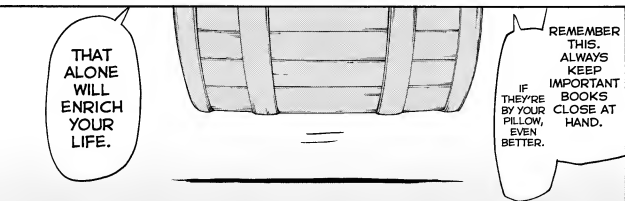
DIDN'T
YOU
COME TO
TALK TO
KOTOHA-
CHAN?



GETTING
TO SEE
THAT IS
ENOUGH
FOR ME.

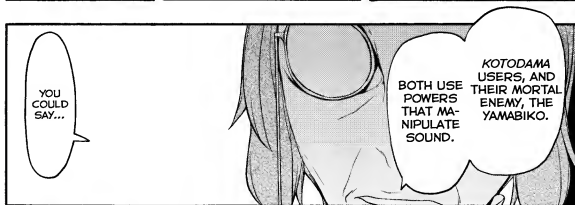
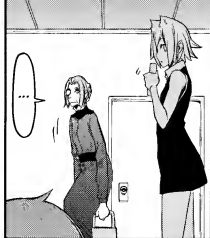
NOT A
BAD
LINEUP.

...YOU
CAN GET
A PEEK AT
SOMEONE'S
LIFE BY
LOOKING
AT THEIR
BOOK-SHELF.



THAT
ALONE
WILL
ENRICH
YOUR
LIFE.

REMEMBER
THIS.
ALWAYS
KEEP
IMPORTANT
BOOKS
CLOSE AT
HAND.
IF
THEY'RE
BY YOUR
PILLOW,
EVEN
BETTER.



KOTODAMA
USERS, AND
THEIR MORTAL
ENEMY, THE
YAMABIKO.

BOTH USE
POWERS
THAT MA-
NIPULATE
SOUND.



IN
OTHER
WORDS
...

...IN
ORDER TO
CONNECT
PEOPLE'S
MINDS.

...YOU
COMMAND
INTRACE-
REBRAL
AND
BODILY
CURRENTS
...

HOW-
EVER
...



...SATORI
LIVE IN A
WORLD OF
LIGHT
SPEED.

BUT
...

I'M
SURE YOU
AND THE
KOTODAMA
USER ARE
GOOD
FRIENDS,
AND
YOU MAY
THINK YOU
MAKE A
PERFECT
TEAM.

IT'S
CLEAR
WHICH
HAS THE
ADVAN-
TAGE.

SOUND
AND
LIGHT.

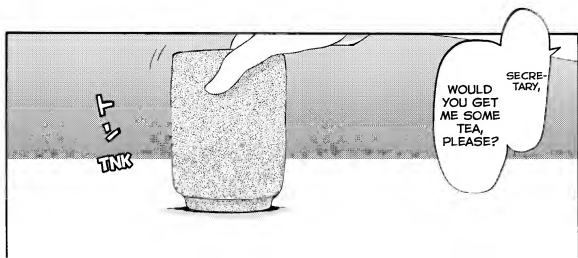


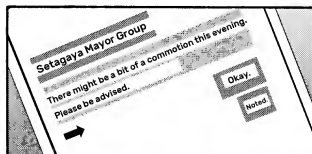
THE
MORTAL
ENEMY
OF
KOTO-
DAMA
USERS
...
...COULD
VERY
WELL BE
SATORI.

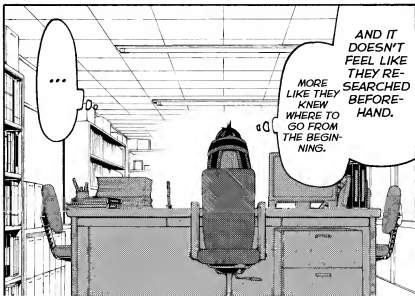
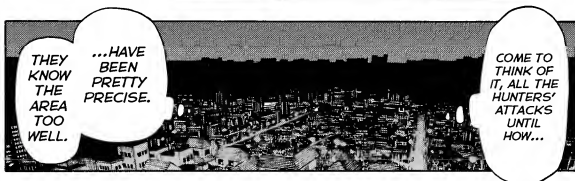


...
I WONDER
WHICH YOU
TWO WILL
END UP
BECOMING,
THE
PERFECT
TEAM, OR
MORTAL
ENEMIES...





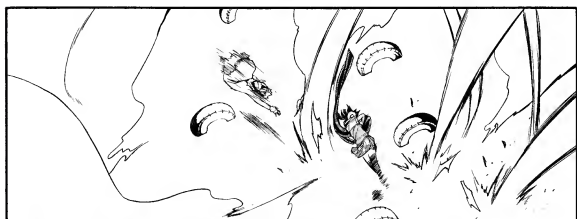
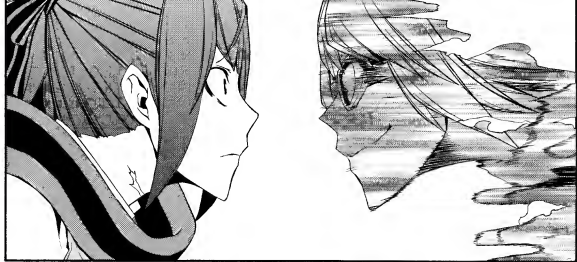




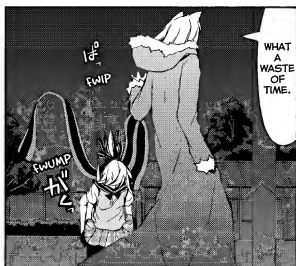












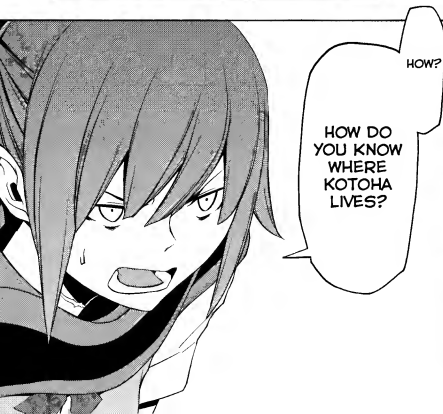
WHAT
A
WASTE
OF
TIME.

YOU
HAVEN'T
HEARD
ANYTHING
ABOUT
THE
SENATE'S
UNDER-
GROUND
FACILITIES
YET?



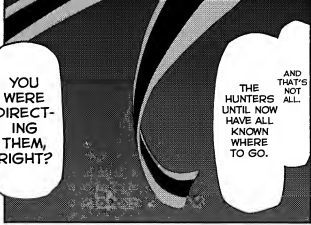
SHE
SHOULD
BE THERE
BY NOW.

I SENT
THE YAMA-
BIKO TO
THE KOT-
ODAMA
USER'S
HOUSE.



HOW DO
YOU KNOW
WHERE
KOTOHA
LIVES?

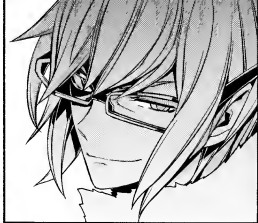




YOU
WERE
DIRECT-
ING
THEM,
RIGHT?

AND
THAT'S
NOT
ALL.

THE
HUNTERS
UNTIL NOW
HAVE ALL
KNOWN
WHERE
TO GO.



THAT'S
THE ONLY
EXPLANA-
TION!

YOU
HAVE
GIN'S
MEMO-
RIES,
DON'T
YOU?!

GIN IS
STILL
ALIVE
SOME-
WHERE
INSIDE
OF YOU!



...WHO
KNOWS?

...WAS
A BIT
UNFAIR.

YOU
KNOW,
I ALWAYS
THOUGHT
ONE
HUNTER
VERSUS
THIS
WHOLE
TOWN'S
FORCES
...

BZZT

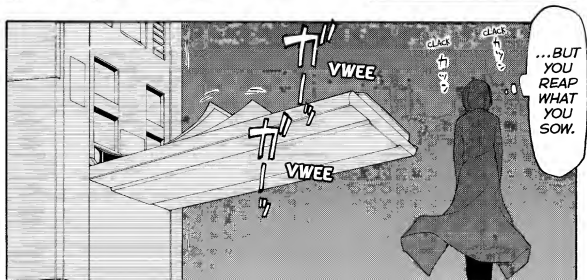
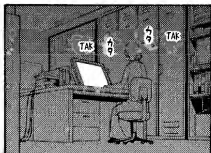
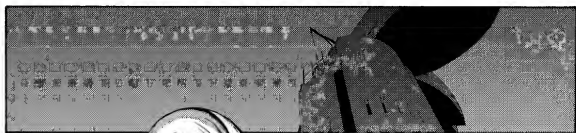
IT WON'T
BE MUCH,
BUT
THIS'LL
MAKE A
GOOD
REHEARSAL
FOR THE
"MONTH
OF
GODS."

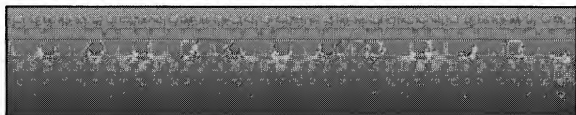
YOU
DON'T
MIND IF I
CALL FOR
SOME
BACKUP,
DO YOU?

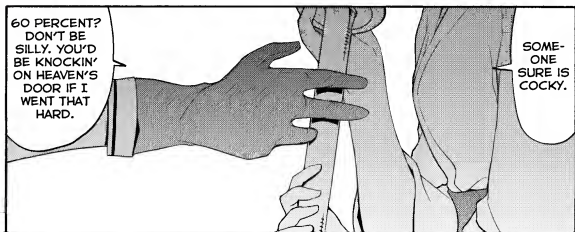
I AC-
QUIRED
A HANDY
LITTLE
POWER
RECENTLY.

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT
MY
BODY.

Kanji: Snake









10
PER-
CENT!

THAT
OUGHTA
DO IT!

FLAP

IF YOU
BEAT ME,
I'LL GRANT
YOU THE
TITLE OF
GOD
SLAYER!

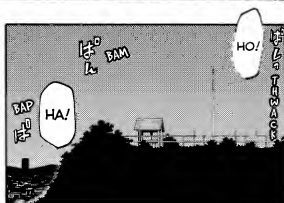
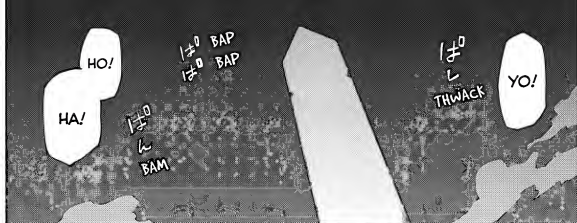
NO
THANKS

BAP

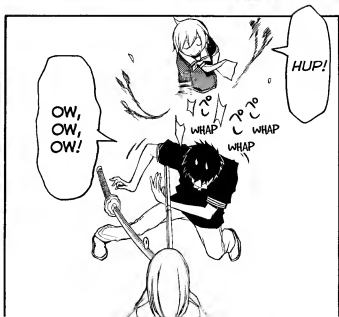
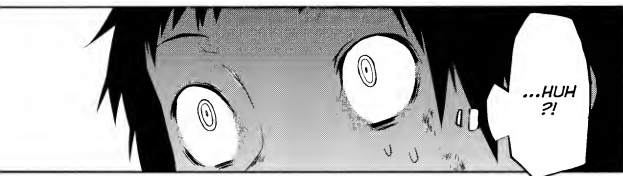
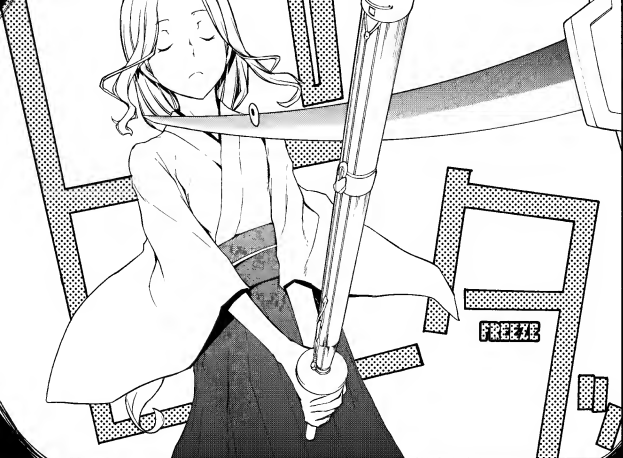


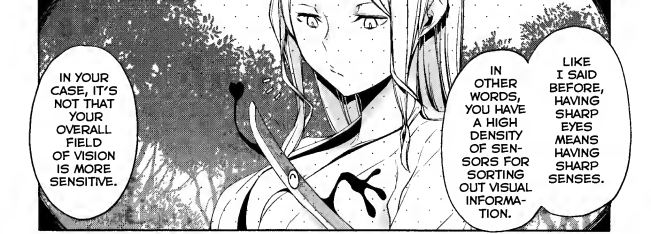








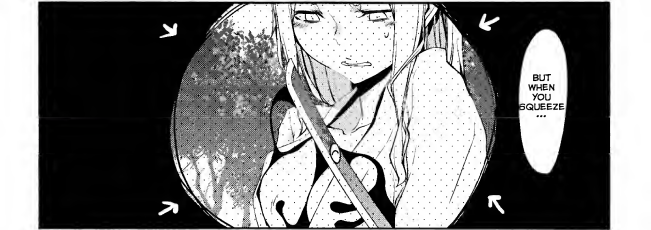




IN YOUR CASE, IT'S NOT THAT YOUR OVERALL FIELD OF VISION IS MORE SENSITIVE.

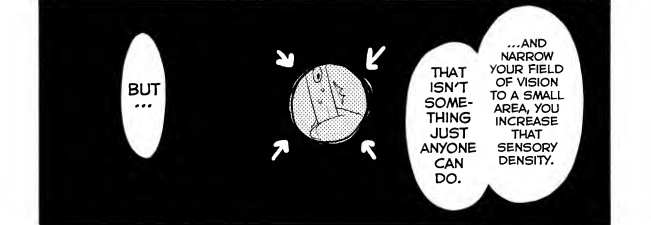
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE A HIGH DENSITY OF SENSORS FOR SORTING OUT VISUAL INFORMATION.

LIKE I SAID BEFORE, HAVING SHARP EYES MEANS HAVING SHARP SENSES.



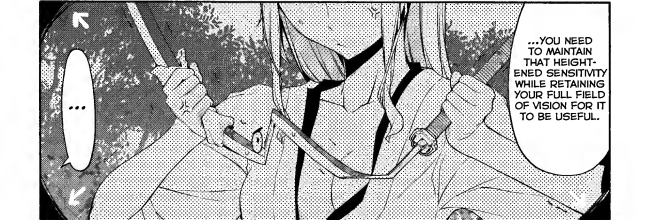
BUT WHEN YOU SQUEEZE ...

BUT ...



THAT ISN'T SOMETHING JUST ANYONE CAN DO.

...AND NARROW YOUR FIELD OF VISION TO A SMALL AREA, YOU INCREASE THAT SENSORY DENSITY.



...YOU NEED TO MAINTAIN THAT HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY WHILE RETAINING YOUR FULL FIELD OF VISION FOR IT TO BE USEFUL.



OTHER-
WISE YOU
WON'T BE
ABLE
TO COM-
PETE.

I
WOULDN'T
BE STRUG-
GLING IF I
COULD DO
THAT.

SUCK
IT UP
AND
DO IT.



AFTER ALL, DEMONS AND HALF-DEMONS ARE THE NORM 'ROUND HERE.

PUFF



AAH...

A TIME
WILL COME
WHEN
YOU JUST
FIGURE IT
OUT.

WELL, THIS
ISN'T THE
KINDA THING
PRACTICE
ALONE CAN
SOLVE.

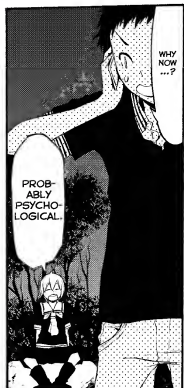


AAAND
START.

AND
FOR
THAT,
ACTUAL
COMBAT
IS YOUR
BEST
BET.



BEEP



ト
ト
ト
TAP
TAP

BEER

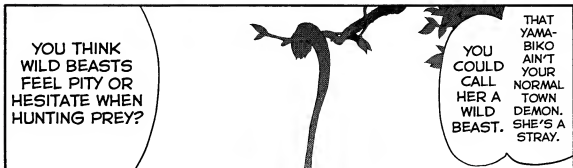
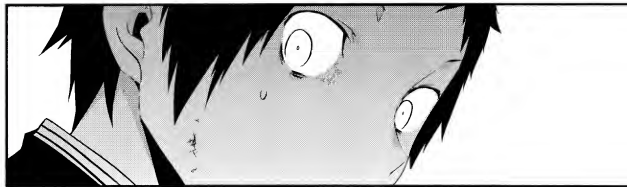
I KNOW
KILLING
GOES
AGAINST
YOUR
BELIEFS.

HEY, AKI-NA.



...DO YOU
HONESTLY
BELIEVE
THERE'S
NO CHANCE
ANYONE
AROUND
YOU WILL
DIE?

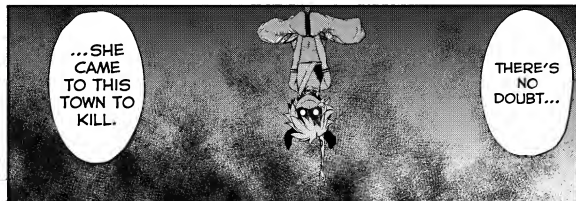
DEEP
DOWN
...



YOU THINK
WILD BEASTS
FEEL PITY OR
HESITATE WHEN
HUNTING PREY?

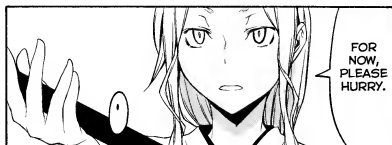
THAT
YAMA-
BIKO
AIN'T
YOUR
NORMAL
TOWN
DEMON.
SHE'S A
STRAY.

YOU
COULD
CALL
HER A
WILD
BEAST.



...SHE
CAME
TO THIS
TOWN TO
KILL.

THERE'S
NO
DOUBT...



THAT
WAS A
LITTLE
TOO
MEAN.

JEEZ.



RUN
LIKE
THE
WIND,
YOUNG-
STER!



RIGHT
NOW,
WE'RE
WALKING
THROUGH
A MINE-
FIELD.

WE
HAVE
BEEN
NAIVE.



HMP?
AKI-
NA?

TAP
TAP
TAP



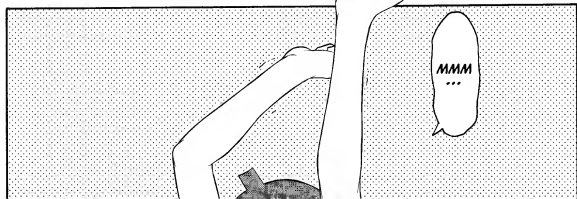
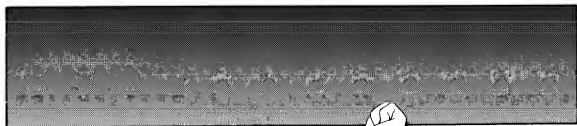


GRANDPA!

I'M NOT
SO SURE
ANYMORE,

#88

KOTONODAMA (PART EIGHT)





I
WONDER IF
HIME-CHAN
WENT ON
PATROL...

AAH,
THAT
WAS A
GOOD
NAP.



HUH? A
TEXT?
WHO'S IT
FROM?
HM,
HM,
HM?

ポロリン
BRING
DING



JEEZ...
SHE
LEFT THE
WINDOW
OPEN.
DID SHE
LEAVE
THIS
WAY?



ぽた
ぽた
TMP

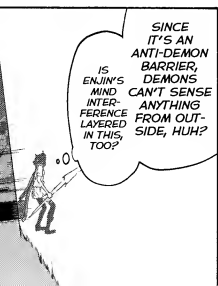
ぽた
ぽた
TMP

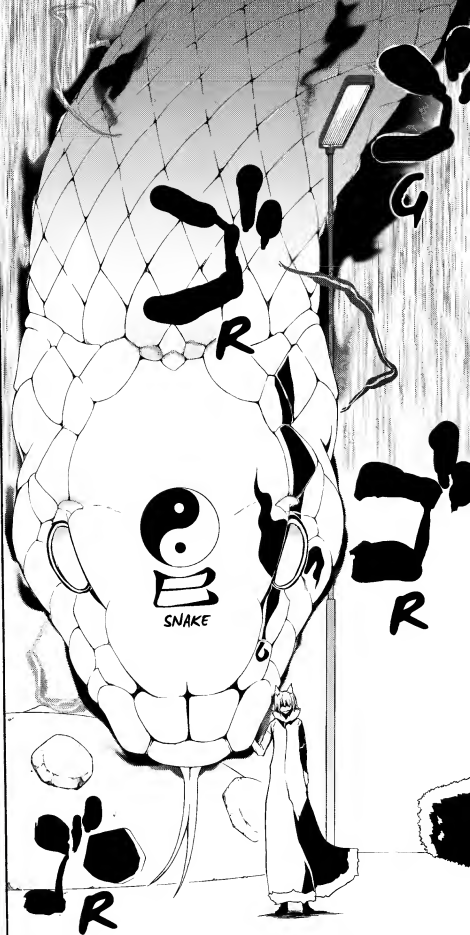
WHAT IS
WITH HIM?
ALWAYS
OUT OF
NOWHERE
...

HUH?
SERI-
OUSLY?



I
HAVE
TO
HURRY
...





LIKE
MURA-
SAKI
USED.

...DEFI-
NITELY
ONMYO-
DO!

THAT'S
...

A
SNAKE...
THERE'S
NO MIS-
TAKING
IT.

EVEN
I HAVE
QUESTIONS.

NO KID-
DING.

AN EXPLA-
NATION
WOULD
BE GREAT!

WE
DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING ON
WITH THE
BASEMENT
FACILITY.

WHAT'S
THE
SENATE
UP TO?

JEEZ!

WHIRL
WHIRL

THAT'S
WHY
ENJIN
DOESN'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
THAT
FACILITY,
EITHER.

...SO
ENJIN
HASN'T
COME
INTO
CONTACT
WITH ANY
OF THEM.

I SEE.
NONE
OF THE
BLANK
GENERA-
TION WENT
TO THE
OTHER
REALM...

HMM

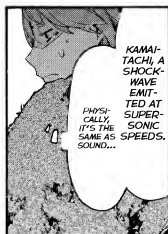
WHAT'S
THE
SENATE'S
DEAL?!

I'M GOING TO
GRILL THEM
AFTER THIS!



SHE
CAN'T
JUST
BOUNCE
BACK
KOTO-
DAMA.

HER
POWER
IS MORE
VERSA-
TILE
THAN I
THOUGHT
...



KAMAI-
TACHI, A
SHOCK-
WAVE
EMIT-
TED AT
SUPER-
SONIC
SPEEDS.

PHYSI-
CALLY,
IT'S THE
SAME AS
SOUND...



I'LL
TRY
USING
...

...THE
BLADE-
LESS
TECH-
NIQUE,
KAMAI-
TACHI.



GO ON
AHEAD.

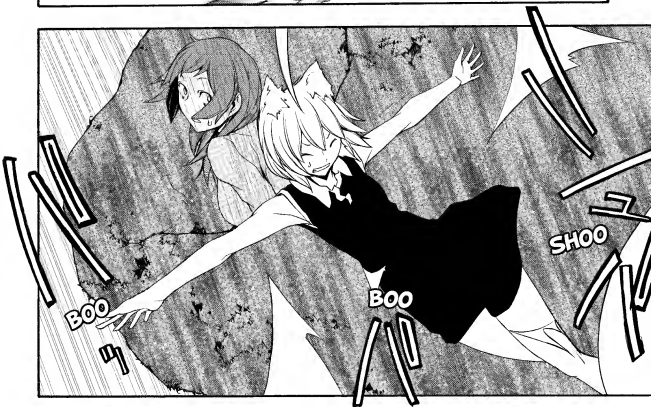
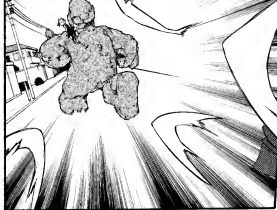
IRUKA-
SAN!

BOOM

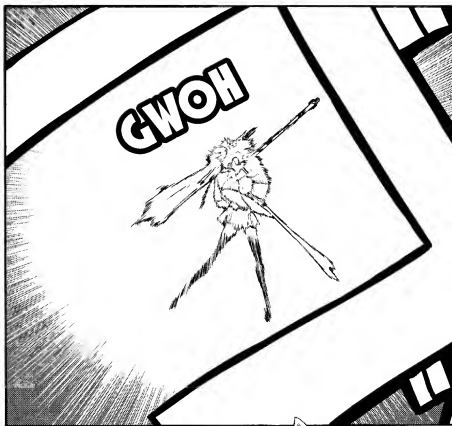
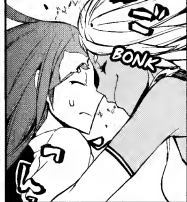


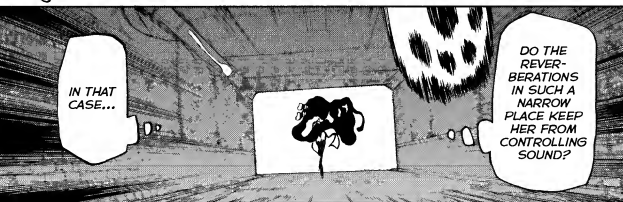
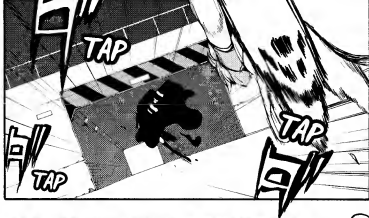
**VIBRA-
TIONS!**

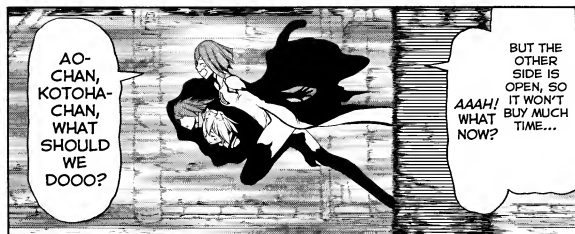
**NO,
IRUKA!
DON'T
...!**

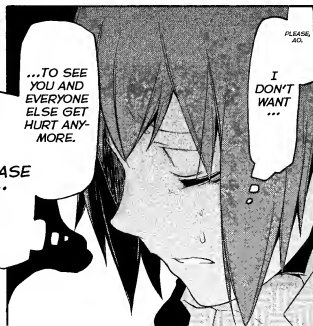


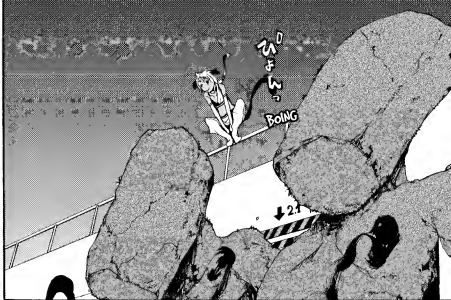
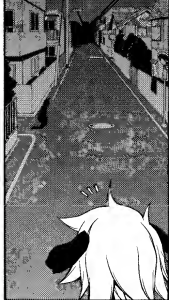


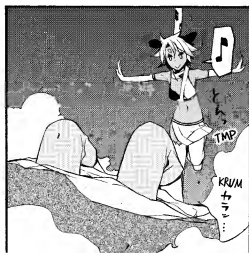




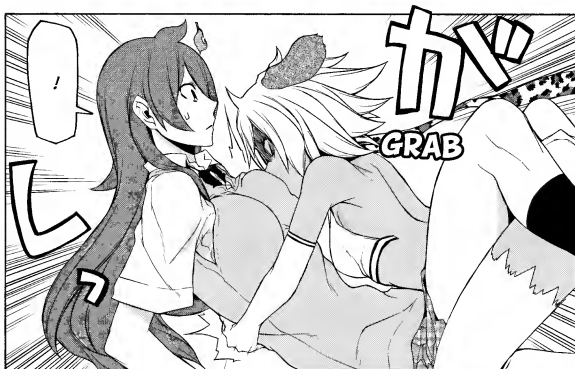


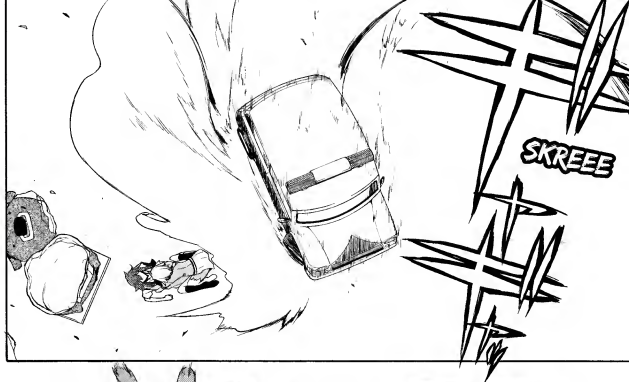


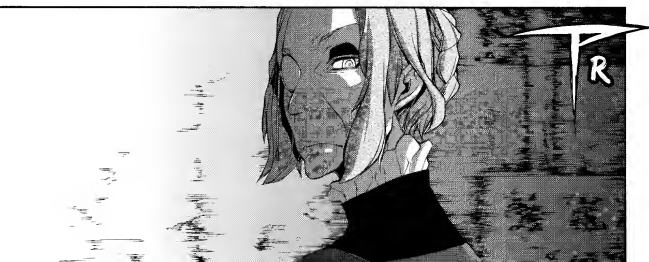
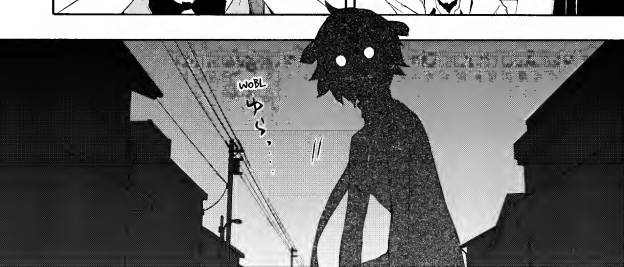












SHE
SAID
SHE
WAS
LEAV-
ING...



GRANDMA
LUCY?!

SHE'S IN
TOWN?!

!!!

SHE WAS
THAT KIND OF
PERSON...?
SHE DID SEEM
LIKE A STRICT
OLD LADY.

YOU
DIDN'T
MAKE
HER
MAD,
DIDJA?!

SHE
COULD
WIPE THIS
WHOLE
CITY OFF
THE
MAP
IF SHE
WANTED
TO!

MUST BE
PRETTY
DAMN SERI-
OUS IF SHE
CAME ALL
THE WAY
FROM THE
SENATE...

'KAAAY.

WHAT-
EVER
YOU
DO,
DON'T
PISS
HER
OFF,
OKAY?!

THAT'S
JUST
HOW
SCARY
TRUE
KOTO-
DAMA
USERS
ARE.

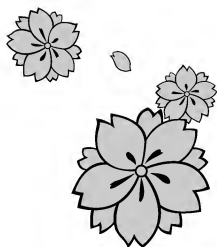
VRUM





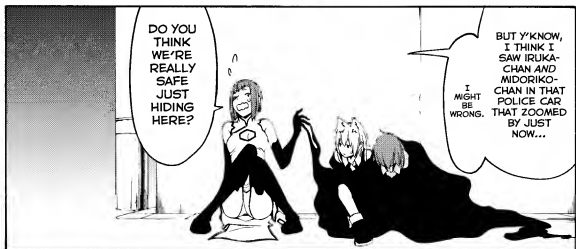
AH,
SHUT UP,
GRANNY.

QUIT
TREATING
ME LIKE
A KID.



YOZAKURA
QUARTET 16







THEY'RE
MADE OF
SPECIAL
MATERIALS,
SO THE NOISE
BLOCKING
IS UNLIKE
ANYTHING
YOU'LL FIND
IN STORES.

THOSE
ARE
SPECIAL-
ORDER
EAR
PLUGS
I USE
WHEN
READING.

...



CLOSE
YOUR EYES,
AND STAY
COVERED
IN A
CORNER.

IN THAT
CASE,
PLUG
YOUR
EARS
WITH
THOSE,

AND YOU
DON'T
HAVE THE
COURAGE
TO PRO-
TECT THE
TOWN.

YOU
CAN'T
USE
KOTO-
DAMA,

THOUGH
WHAT'S LEFT
MAY ONLY
BE A RAZED
FIELD.

THE
STORM
WILL PASS
EVENTUALLY.

...HOW
PATHE-
TIC!

YOU'RE
STRONG
ENOUGH
TO LAND A
KICK TO MY
FACE, AND
YET...



WHY
DOES
KOTOHA-
CHAN
HAVE TO
TAKE
THAT
FROM-



I
HAVE NO
RIGHT
TO ASK
THIS,
BUT PLEASE
...

...DON'T
HARM THE
TOWN OR
PEOPLE.

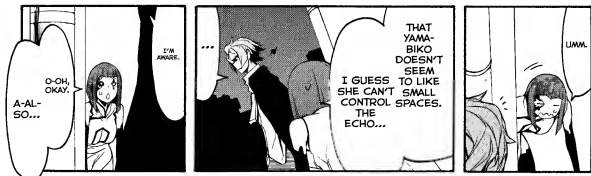
KOTO-
HA-
CHAN
...

I...
I...!

IF ANYONE
GOT HURT,
OR THE
TOWN WAS
DESTROYED
BY THE ONE
WHO CAME
FOR ME...

THAT'S
NONE
OF MY
CONCERN.
IF IT'S
NECESSARY
TO SUP-
PRESS
THE THREAT,
SOME CASU-
ALTIES MAY
BE UNAVOID-
ABLE.





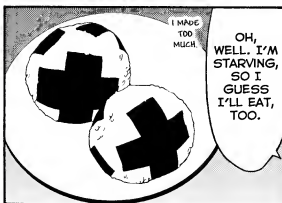


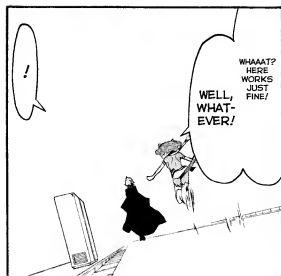
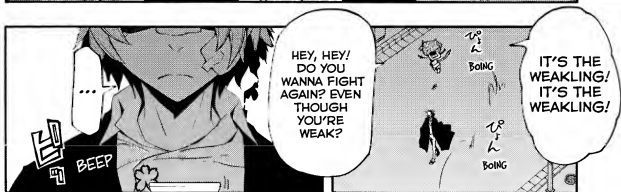
I
WONDER
ABOUT
THAT.

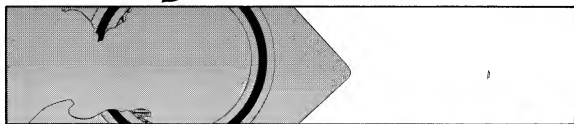
EXCUSE
ME.

#89 *KOTONODAMA* (PART NINE)



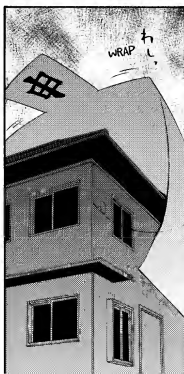
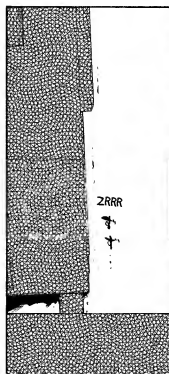


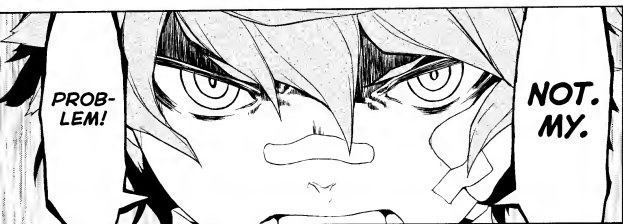






Doll: Monkey







BUT EVEN
I, NAY,
PERHAPS
BECAUSE
OF THAT,
THIS TOWN
STRIKES
ME SO
DEEPLY.

AS A
DEMON
BLADE, I
THOUGHT
ONLY
ABOUT
KILLING.

YOU
BET.

WELL,
IT'S
KINDA
ROWDY
AT THE
MOMENT
...

IT'S A
NICE,
PEACE-
FUL
TOWN.



...



IT
MAKES
ME WANT
TO HELP
EVEN
MORE.

YOU
MUST
LEARN
THE
"TASTE"
OF THE
CUT.

KNOW-
LEDGE
MAKES
FOR A
FINE
BLADE.



WONDER
IF I CAN
PULL IT
OFF WITH
ONLY
THE BA-
SICS...

HERE
WE
ARE,

PLEASE
BE
OKAY,
HIME!

SAVOR
THIS
TASTE
WITH
YOUR
TONGUE.

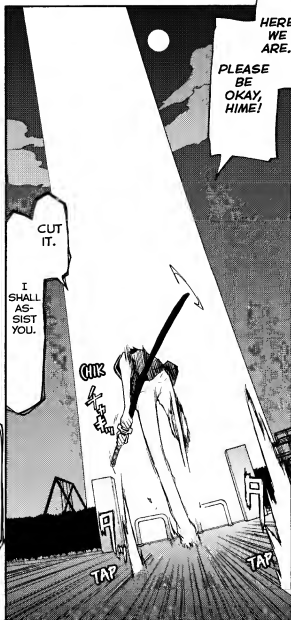
FLASH

...BE-
TWEEN
A
GOOD
AND A
BAD
CUT.

OTHER-
WISE,
YOU WILL
NEVER
KNOW
THE
DIFFER-
ENCE...

CUT
IT.

I
SHALL
AS-
SIST
YOU.



CHK

TAP

TAP



SKFF

SWING
WITH
ALL
YOUR
MIGHT,

AS
IF TO
SUN-
DER
THE
MOON!

SLASH



BOOM

OH.
HEY,
AKINA.

TAP

SHOOM

OBVI-
OUSLY.

YOU
WON
PRETTY
EASILY,
HUH?
UHH,
HEY.

DANG
IT!

THERE'S
NO WAY A
DRAGON
WOULD
LOSE
TO A
SNAKE.

BUT
THERE'S
STILL....

BZZT

TRUE,
THAT WAS
A BAD
MATCHUP.

...11
ZODIAC
ANIMALS
LEFT TO
GO.





ALL DONE?



...I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
CAN YOU SPEAK A LITTLE LOUDER, PLEASE?







I HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THIS TOWN, BUT I WENT AHEAD AND TRIED TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGES.



AAH, I FEEL BETTER NOW.

I WAS OUT COLD AFTER YOU DID ME IN, SO I'M ABSOLUTELY STARVING.

Gun: Senate



I MEAN, IT WOULDN'T FEEL GOOD ...
...TAKING ALL THESE DUMPLINGS AND GIVING NOTHING BACK.

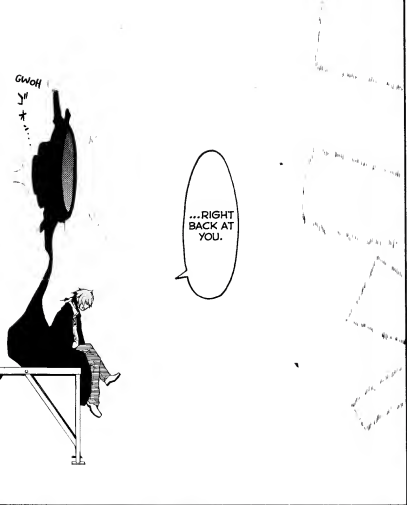


I TAKE THE WAVE-FORM OF YOUR SOUND ATTACKS, ANALYZE IT...



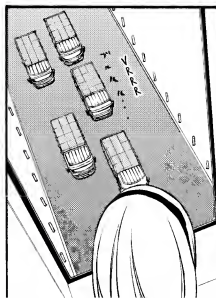
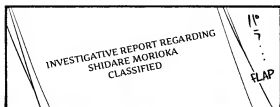
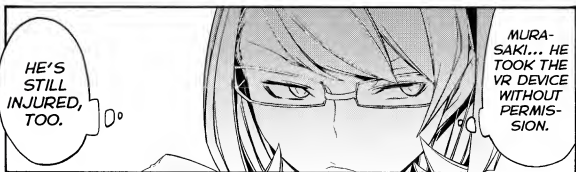
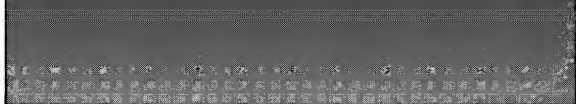
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?

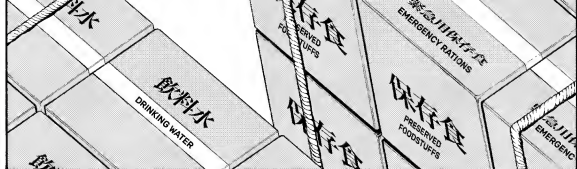
I HAVE ENOUGH DATA.

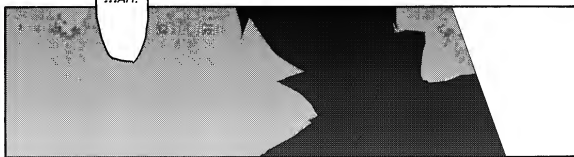




...I'M
NOT A
NICE
GUY.



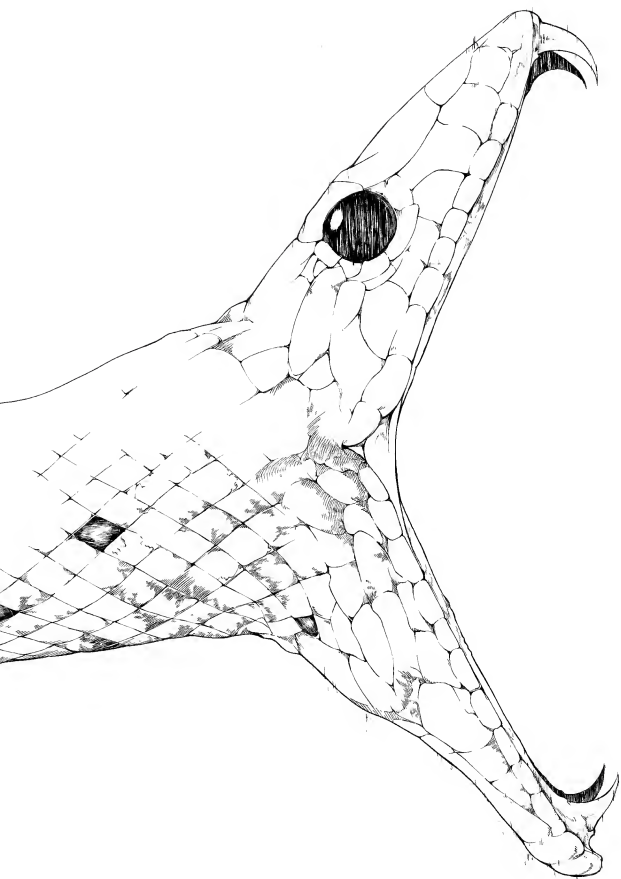


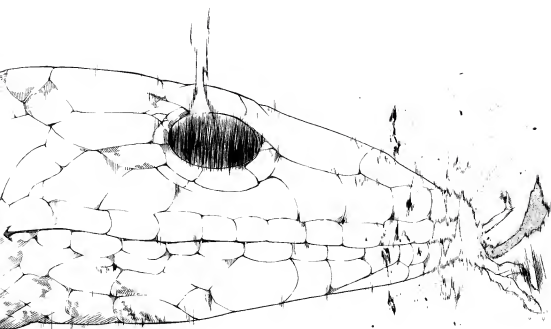


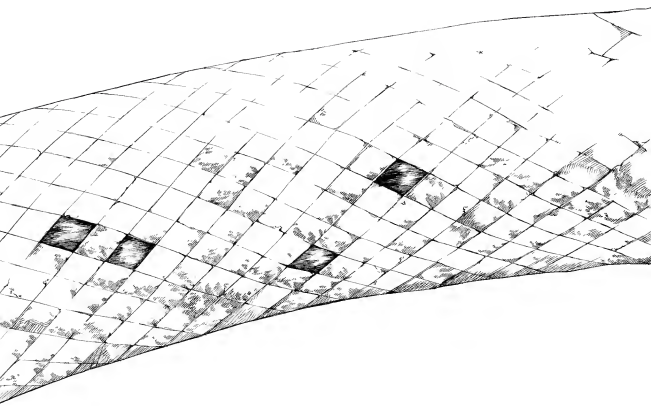


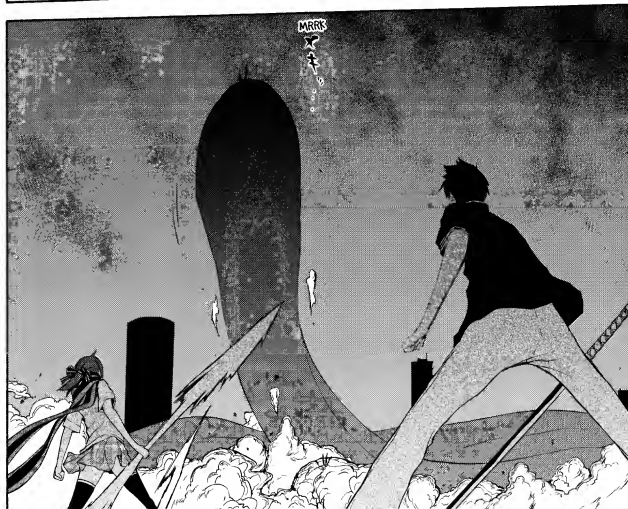


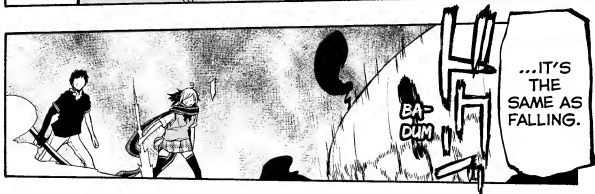


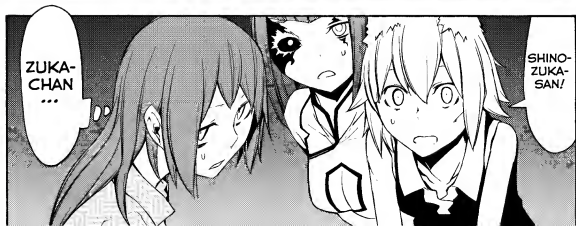
















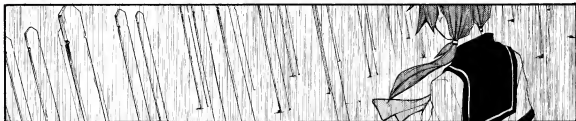
...THAT
HALF-
DEMONS
ARE A
TRUMP
CARD FOR
SAVING
THIS
TOWN.



IT'S
JUST,
KOTOHA
ONCE
TOLD
ME BE-
FORE
...

I
DIDN'T
MEAN
IT LIKE
THAT.

SOR-
RY.



THEY'RE
HORRIBLY
MISMATCHED,
BUT LOOKING
AT IT FROM
THE OTHER
SIDE...



...IS THE
BANE OF
KOTODAMA
USERS, THE
YAMABIKO.

THE
ENEMY
THIS
TIME
...

I BELIEVE
THEY'RE
TWO SIDES
OF THE
SAME COIN.



...KOTODAMA
USERS CAN
ALSO BECOME
THE BANE OF
YAMABIKO.

TO BE
HONEST,
THE MAYOR
HIMSELF
TRIED TO
COME IN
PERSON.



I BET
SHE'S
OF A
SIMILAR
MIND.

I
WOULDN'T
WANT HIM
TO GET
HURT,
EITHER.

AFTER
SOME
BEG-
GING, I
FINALLY
MAN-
AGED
TO GET
HIM TO
STAY
PUT.

BUT HE
STILL
INSIST-
ED ON
GOING.

I FEEL
SORRY
FOR SAYING
THIS, BUT
A NORMAL,
POWER-
LESS
HUMAN
WOULD
BE OF NO
HELP.

...I
BELIEVE
THAT'S
A GOOD
ENOUGH
REASON
TO FIGHT.

FOR
THOSE OF
US WITH
SUPER-
HUMAN
POWERS
...

WE DON'T
WANT THE
PEOPLE WE
CHERISH
TO FIGHT.



HAS ANOTHER ONE ARRIVED? NO...

THIS PRESENCE... IT'S A HALF-DEMON!

THIS
PRES-
ENCE...
IT'S A
HALF-
DEMON!

**...WAS
BORN.**

A manga panel showing a character with cat ears and a black dress looking surprised or excited, with a speech bubble saying "AO ...".

AO



...YOU
WERE
AWAKE?



WHEN
I WAS
LYING
DOWN
EARLIER,
YOU
SAID
YOU'D
PRO-
TECT ME,
DIDN'T
YOU?

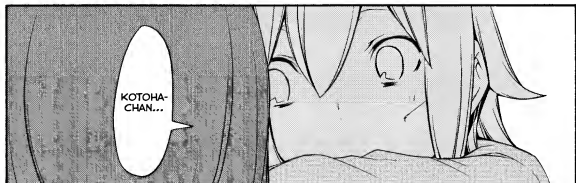
THAT
MADE
ME
HAP-
PY.



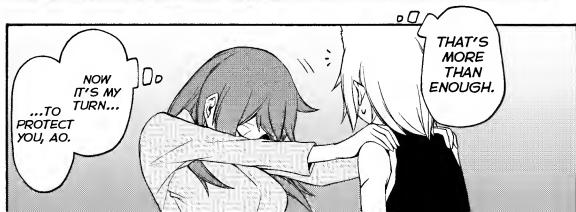
AND ...
...YOU
PROTECT-
ED MY
HEART.

ぎゅ
ぎゅ
HUG

YOU GOT
YOURSELF
ALL BEAT
UP PRO-
TECTING
ME.



KOTOHA-
CHAN...



THAT'S
MORE
THAN
ENOUGH.

NOW
IT'S MY
TURN...
...TO
PROTECT
YOU, AO.





...MOVING
MY TONGUE
IS A CINCH.

THAT'S
WHY...

ZZTCH

W



UH,
YEAH.



YOU
HAVE
COUGH
DROPS
ON YOU,
RIGHT?



MIND
TURNING
AROUND,
ZUKA-
CHAN?
SORRY.

KOTO-
HA-
CHAN
...!



あゝん
AAAAH

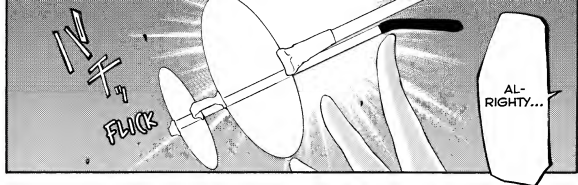
FEED
ME.

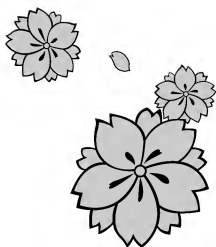
SURE.

SNAP
704704

...COMBAT
UNIFORM!

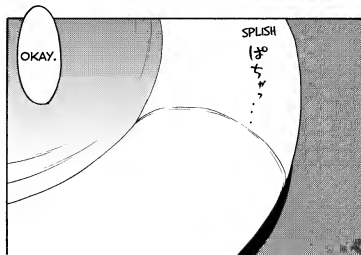






YOZAKURA
QUARTET 16







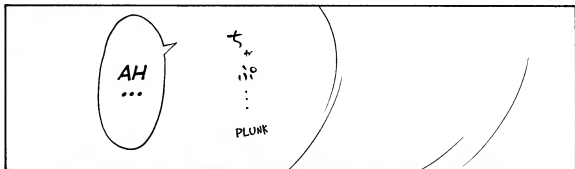
JEEZ.
DON'T I
HAVE A
SAY?

QUIT
YER
BELLY-
ACHING,
AND
GET IN!



ALL
SET!
STRIP
HER
DOWN!

EEK!



AH
...

ちゅぽ
...
PLUNK



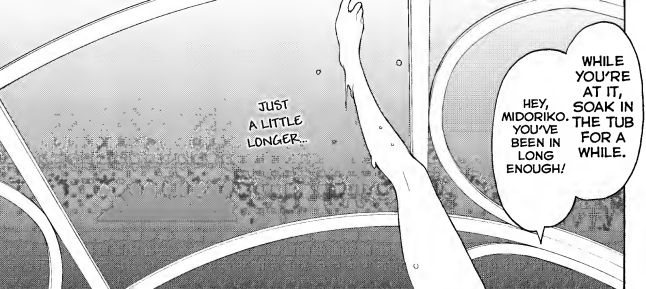
BATHING IN
THE SAME
WATER IS
ENOUGH TO
HAVE SOME
HEALING
EFFECTS.

MER-
MAID'S
FLESH
GRANTS
IMMORTALITY.

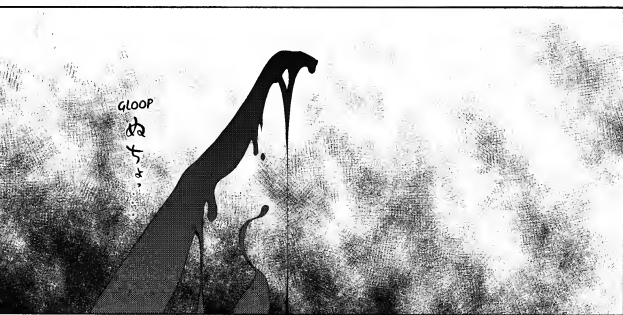
じゅ
や
や
SHIEN

MY
CUTS
...

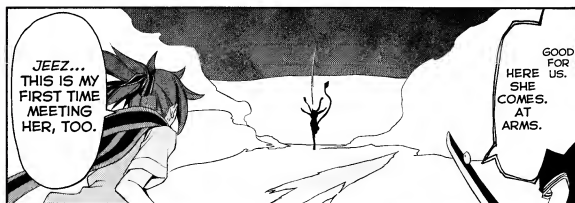




#90 KOTONODAMA (PART TEN)





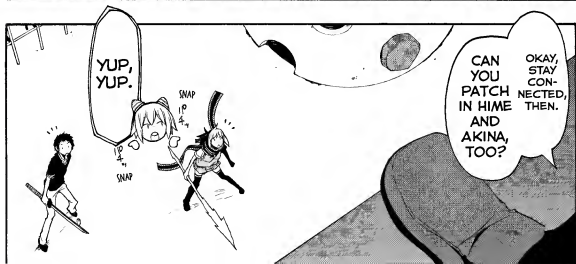


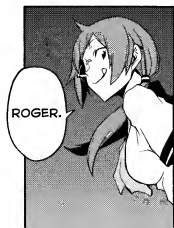
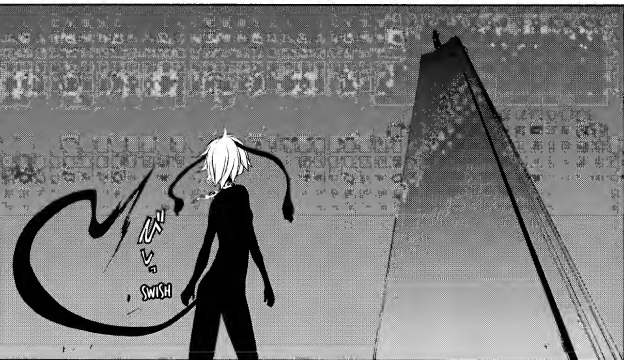


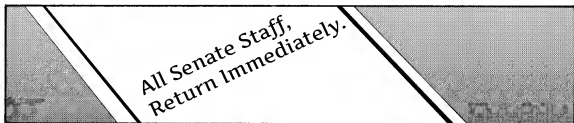


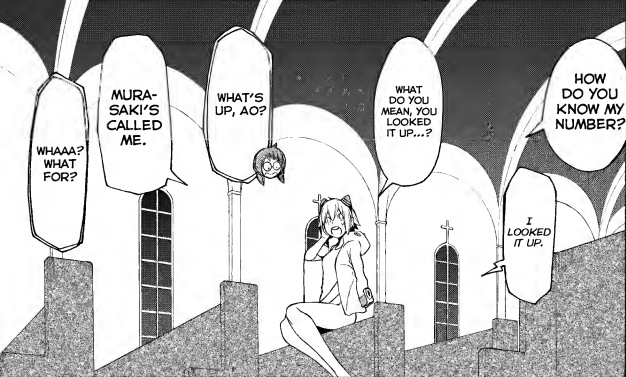
TA-DA

**SORRY
FOR THE
WAIT!**





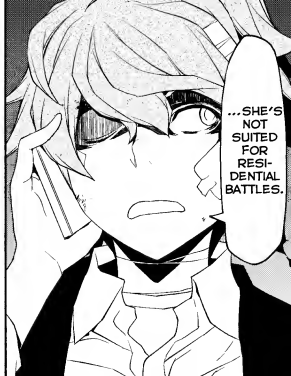






SO SHE WON'T DESTROY THE TOWN?

...



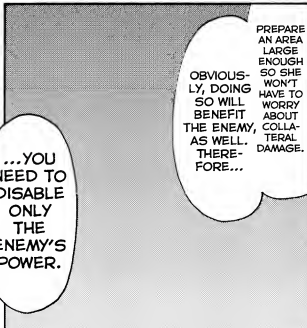
...SHE'S NOT SUITED FOR RESIDENTIAL BATTLES.



WE'RE TALKIN' ENOUGH POWER TO LEVEL AN ENTIRE TOWN.



IT'S KOTODAMA PLAUSIBLE. NO JOKE WHEN THEY'RE SERIOUS.



...YOU NEED TO DISABLE ONLY THE ENEMY'S POWER.

PREPARE AN AREA LARGE ENOUGH SO SHE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT COLLATERAL DAMAGE. OBVIOUSLY, DOING SO WILL BENEFIT THE ENEMY, AS WELL. THEREFORE...

...



...BUT PLEASE ... DON'T HARM THE TOWN OR PEOPLE.



ALSO,
ONE
MORE
THING.

THINK
OF
THAT
YOUR-
SELVES.



WHAT
?!

BEATS
ME.



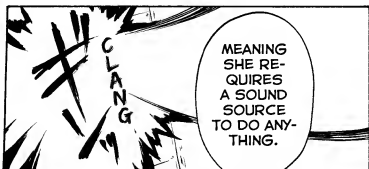
AND
HOW
DO
WE
DO
THAT?

CREATING
SUCH A
SCENARIO
WOULD BE
BEST.



HER ATTACKS INVOLVE
REFLECTING SOUND,
AMPLIFYING SOUND
TO CREATE A SHOCK-
WAVE, AND SO ON...

IT MAY NOT BE
ENOUGH TO BE
CONSIDERED THE
YAMABIKO'S WEAK-
NESS, BUT THERE
IS SOMETHING I
NOTICED.



MEANING
SHE RE-
QUIRES
A SOUND
SOURCE
TO DO ANY-
THING.

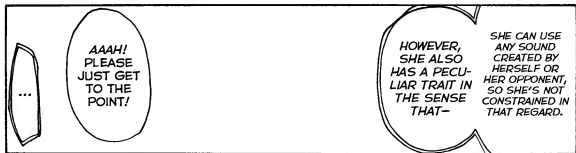




SO, WHAT ABOUT IT, MURASAKI?

LOUD AND CLEAR.

CAN YOU HEAR ME, KOTOHA-CHAN?



AAA! PLEASE JUST GET TO THE POINT!

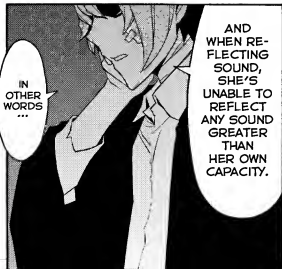
HOWEVER, SHE ALSO HAS A PECULIAR TRAIT IN THE SENSE THAT—

SHE CAN USE ANY SOUND CREATED BY HERSELF OR HER OPPONENT, SO SHE'S NOT CONSTRAINED IN THAT REGARD.



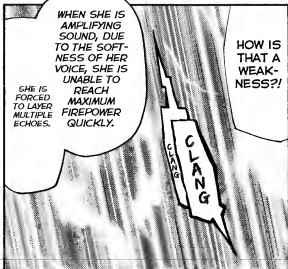
HER NATURAL VOICE...

...IS INCREDIBLY SOFT.



IN OTHER WORDS ...

AND WHEN REFLECTING SOUND, SHE'S UNABLE TO REFLECT ANY SOUND GREATER THAN HER OWN CAPACITY.



WHEN SHE IS AMPLIFYING SOUND, DUE TO THE SOFTNESS OF HER VOICE, SHE IS UNABLE TO REACH MAXIMUM FIREPOWER QUICKLY.

SHE IS FORCED TO LAYER MULTIPLE ECHOES.

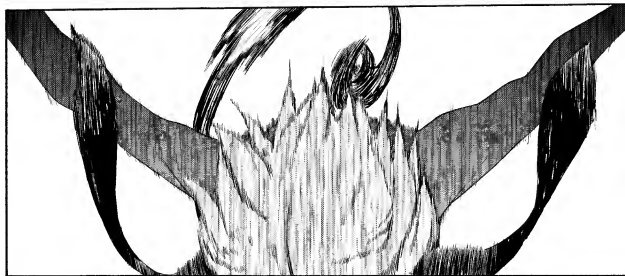
HOW IS THAT A WEAKNESS?!

CLANG

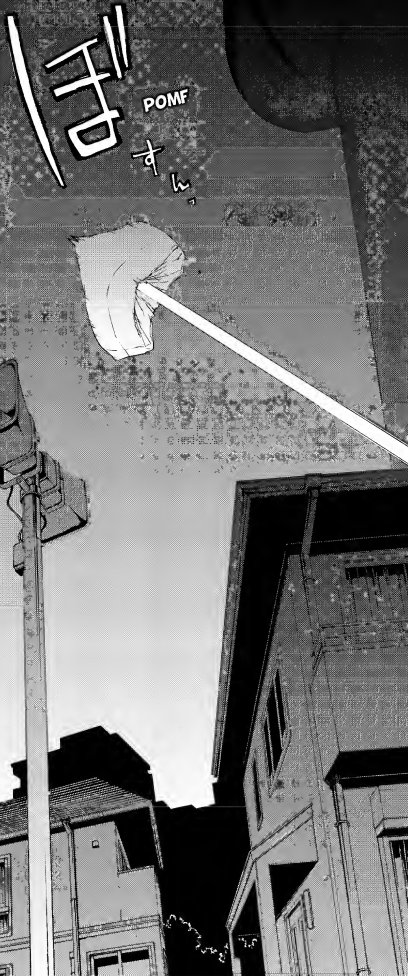


IF IT'S ONE THING KARAOKE TAUGHT ME, IT'S HOW TO YELL.







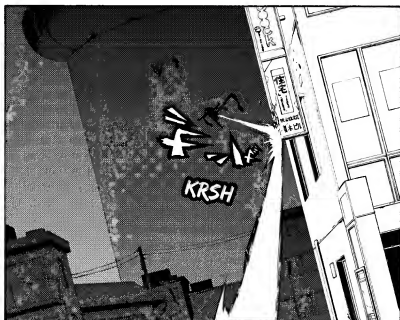


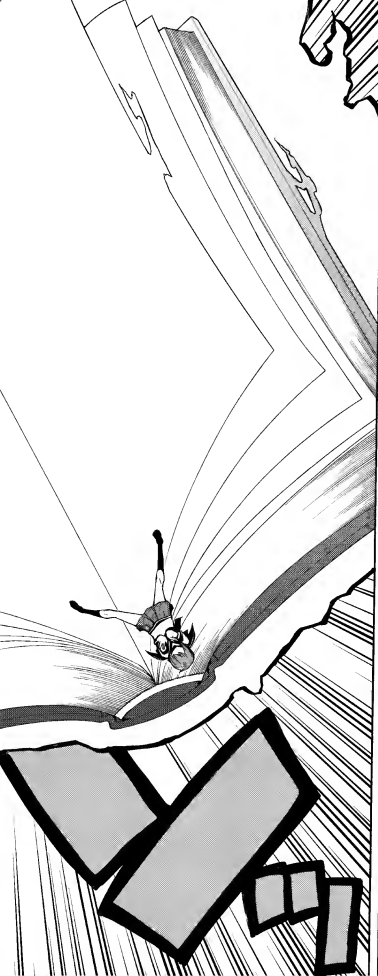
WHAT A
BOTHER.

I
HAVE TO
COLLECT
MORE
DATA...

SCRIT
SCRIT

OH,
RIGHT.
SHE'S
FALLEN.





SHORT-
CUT.

**FOLK-
LORE:**

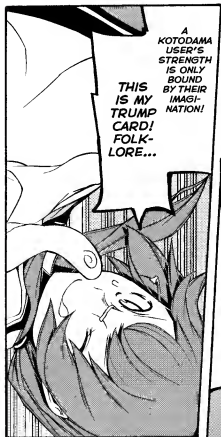




**THE
NORTH
WIND...**

**...AND
THE
SUN!**

POOF



**KACHI-KACHI
MOUNTAIN!**

[illegible]

大井

**LITTLE
RED
RIDING
HOOD!**



ALL
RIGHT,
LET'S
KEEP
...

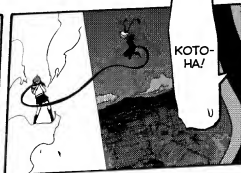
**HOW'S
THAT?!**

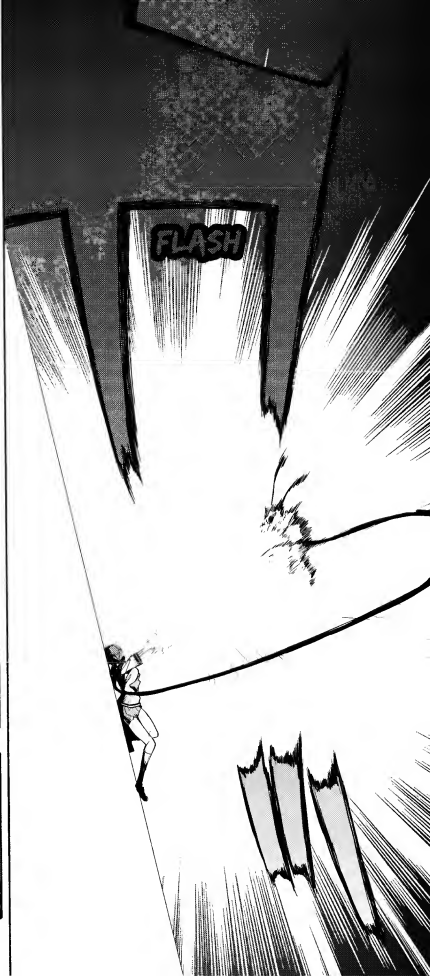


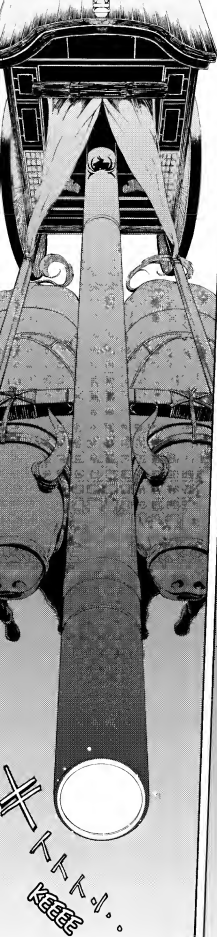
SHRT

SHRT



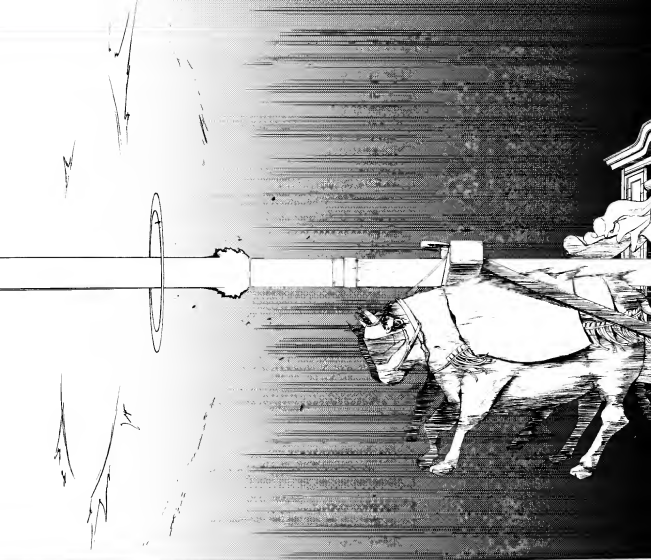


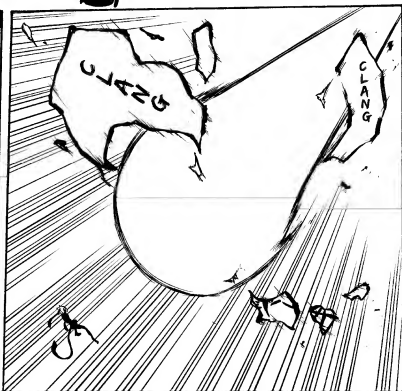
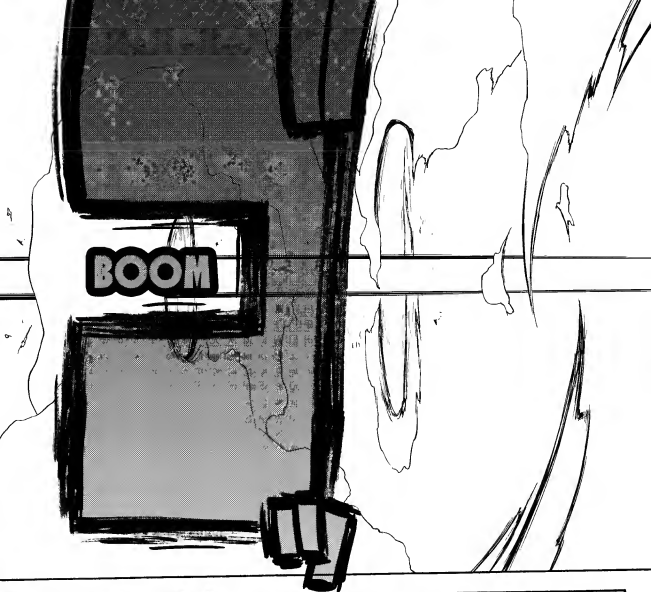


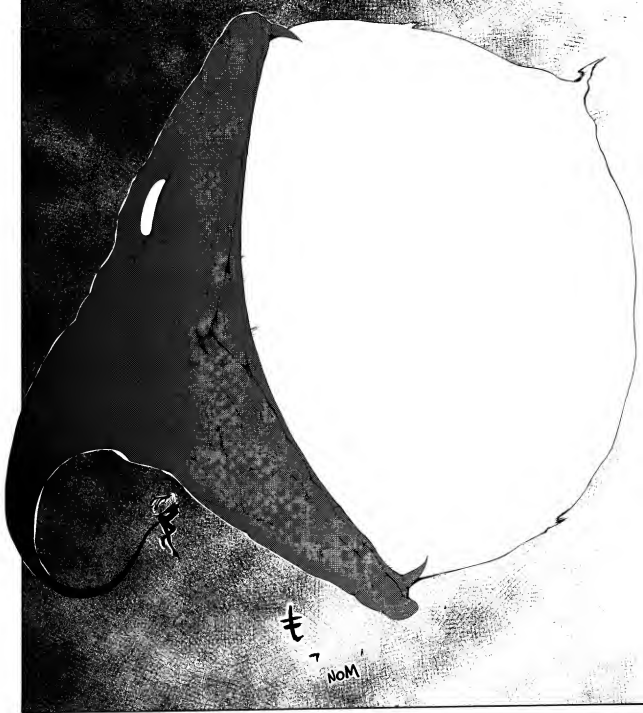


PRINCESS
KAGUYA.

*A tale about a beautiful princess from the moon





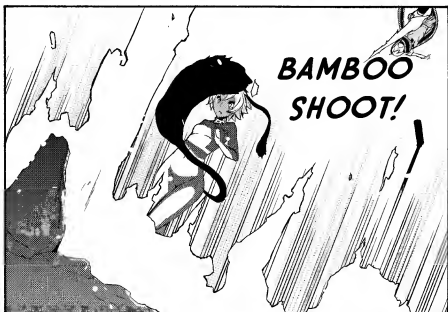




*A folktale about a *tanuki* that transforms into a teapot.











*A tale about a feral boy with superhuman strength







THINK.
PROTECT
US BY
LETTING
US FIGHT.



I KNOW I
SAID I'D
PROTECT
YOU, BUT
I NEED
YOUR
HELP.



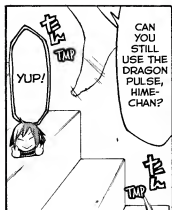
YOU'RE
THE
OFFICE
ACE,
AREN'T
YOU?

WE
HAVE
TO
FIGHT,
SO
THINK
UP A
PLAN
FOR
US,
AO.



GUIDE
US TO
VICTORY!





CAN YOU STILL
USE THE
DRAGON
PULSE,
HIME-
CHAN?



RE-
PORT
THAT
KINDA
THING
FROM
NOW
ON!



YOU
WENT ON
WALKS
WITH ME,
REMEM-
BER?





BZZT

I WILL
NOW
TRANS-
MIT THE
STRAT-
EGY!

BZZZ



ATTEN-
TION,
ALL
UNITS!

FWOOSH

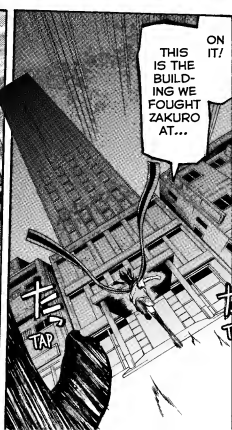
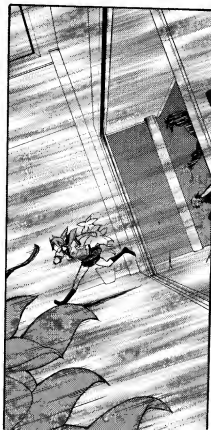




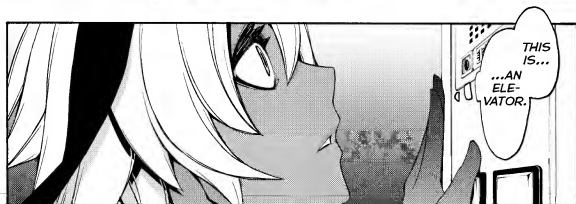


#91 *KOTONODAMA* (EPILOGUE)









AL-
RIGHTY.
TIME TO
GO...

I'M NOT SURE
WHY, BUT SHE'S
STAYING STILL,
WHICH IS GOOD
FOR US.

...MY
PRECIOUS
LITTLE
TONGUE!

DON'T
GO
STOP-
PING
NOW...

チィ BZZT

CLACK

CLACK

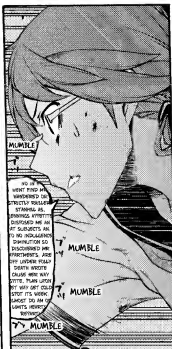
CLACK

ZWOOSH

CLACK

THUNK

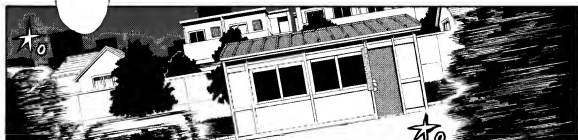








...



...

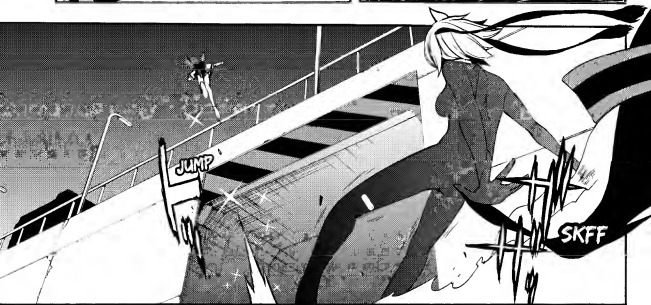
BUT,
BUT
...

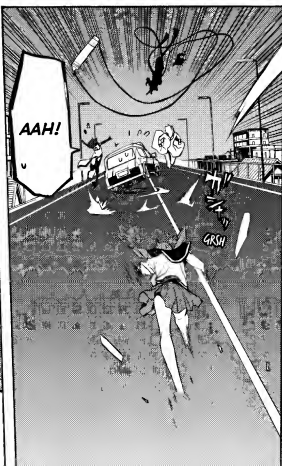
TOWNS
ARE...

...PRET-
TY FUN.



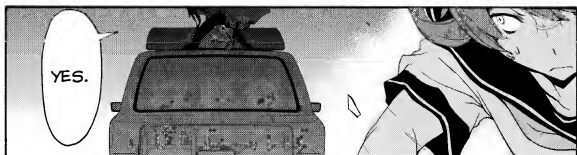
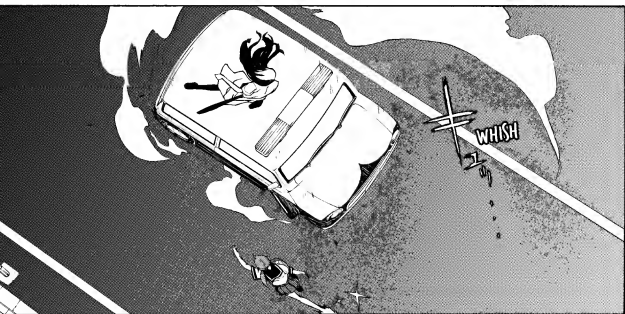
RUNNING
AROUND IN
CIRCLES IS
NO FUN.

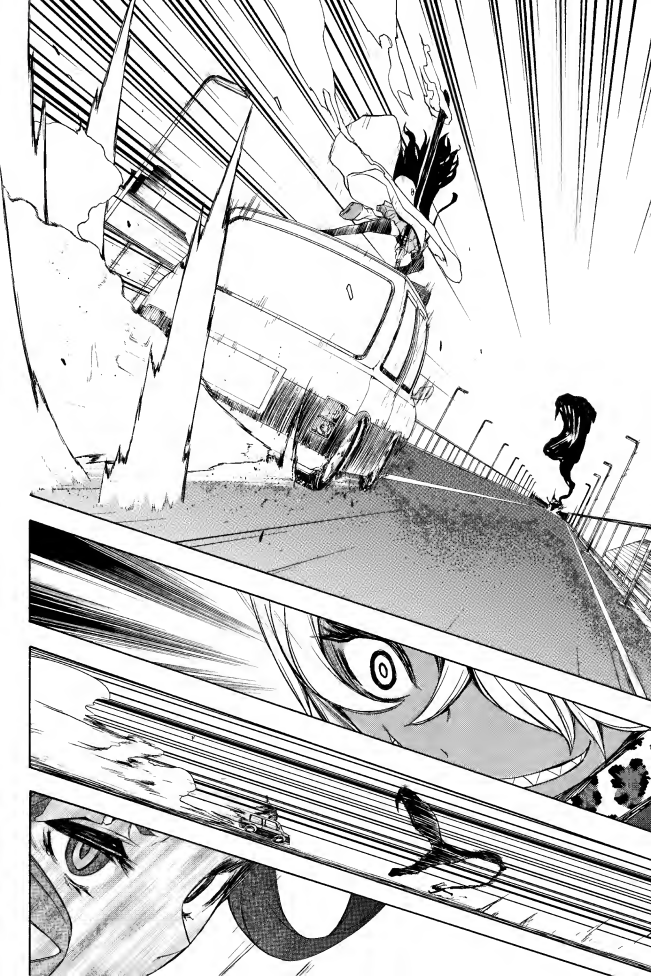


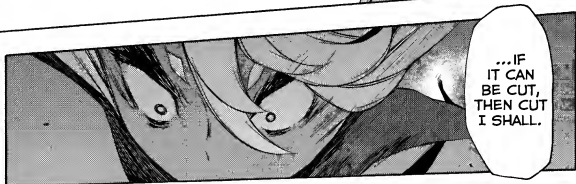










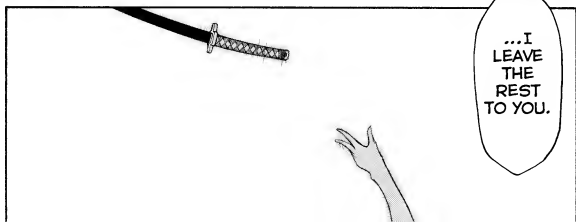


...IF
IT CAN
BE CUT,
THEN CUT
I SHALL.

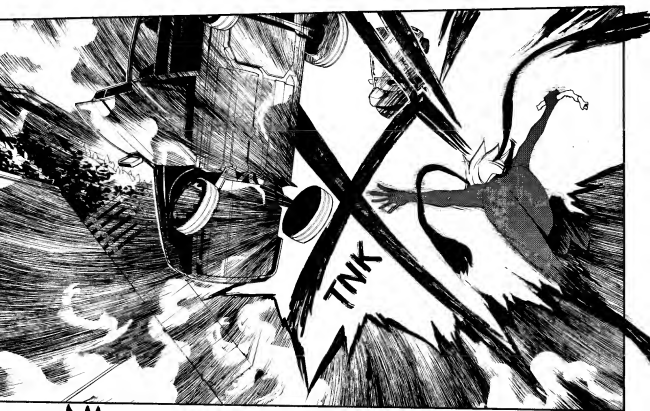


AS
SUCH
...

HOW-
EVER, FROM
THIS POINT
BEGINS A
WORLD OF
THINGS THAT
CAN'T BE
CUT.



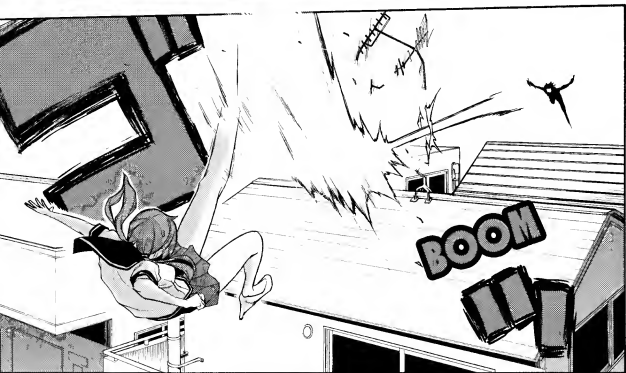
...I
LEAVE
THE
REST
TO YOU.



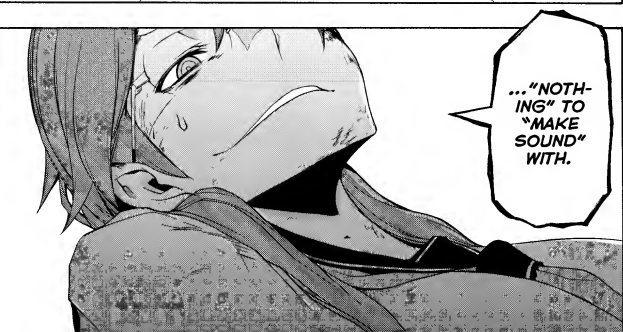
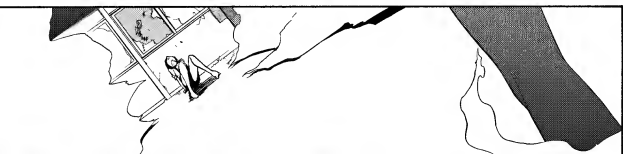
I
CAUGHT
UP!













FWOO

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN?
I
CAN
...



...NOTHING?



サ
ア
ア
SHH



PLUNK

I WAS
BORN AND
RAISED IN
SAKURA-
SHIN,
Y'KNOW.

?!
PLUNK



PLOOOSH

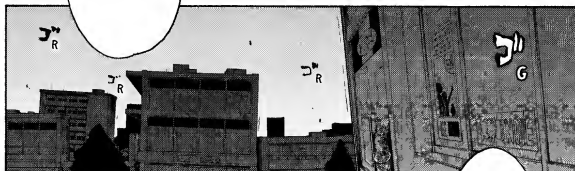
ホ
ア
ン
...

THANKS TO
AO, I'VE
MEMORIZED
EVERY NOOK
AND CRANNY
OF THIS
TOWN.

PLOOOSH



GOING
THROUGH
ALL THAT
TROUBLE TO
CREATE THIS
SITUATION...

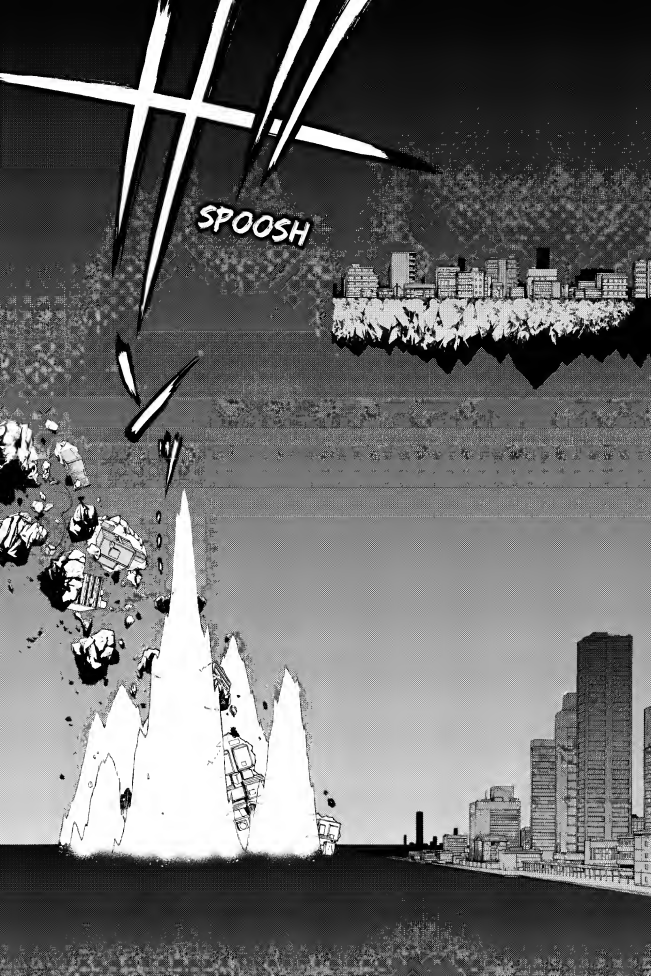


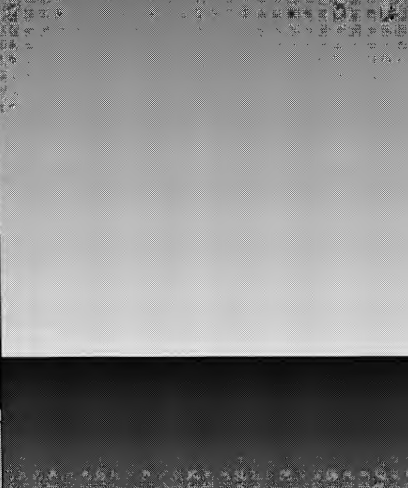
...ONLY
TO LET IT
CRUMBLE
IN AN
INSTANT
IS THE
EPITOME
OF CLASS.

MY
KOTO-
DAMA'S
PRETTY
SWEET,
HUH?

WHAT
DO YA
THINK?

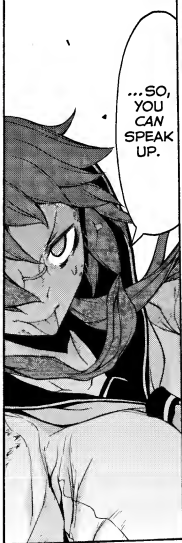
SPOOSH











... SO,
YOU
CAN
SPEAK
UP.



BUT
...

...THERE'S
NOTHING
HERE.

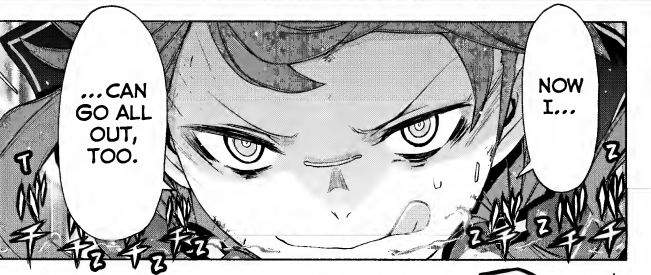
I DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT
BREAKING
ANYTHING.



ZWAHHH



IT'S JUST
OCEAN AS
FAR AS
THE EYE
CAN SEE.



...CAN
GO ALL
OUT,
TOO.

NOW
I...



SHORT-
CUT...

**STRIKE
PACKAGE!!**





VWE



...OH,
GUESS
YOU CAN'T
HEAR
ME.

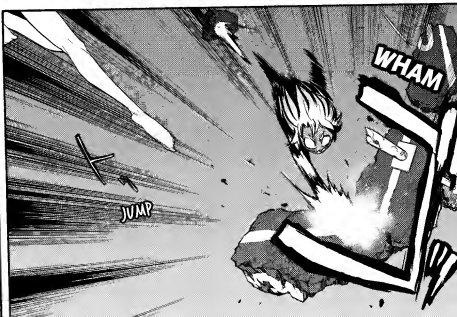
IN THE
END, YOUR
ATTACKS
ARE JUST
"SOUND."

ALL I HAVE
TO DO IS
DROWN THEM
OUT WITH
EVEN LOUDER
SOUNDS.

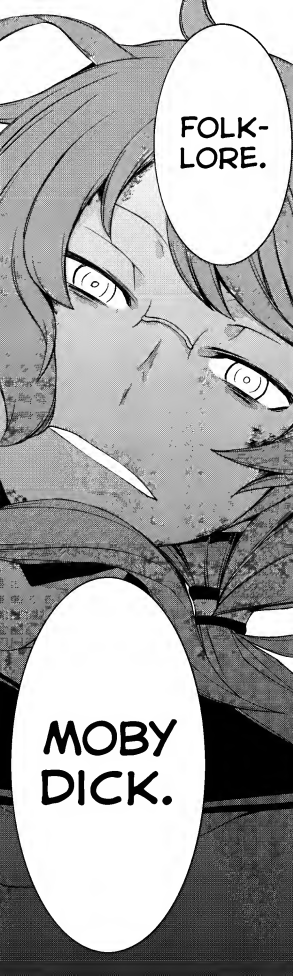


UH-
OH.

IF
YOU
STRIKE
AT
ME...



WHAM



FOLK-
LORE.

MOBY
DICK.



IT'S
TIME
TO
END
THIS.

I'LL
READ
YOU A
STORY
BEFORE
BED.

...THEN
IT'S ALL
OVER.



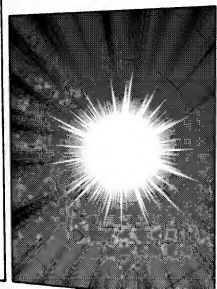
A
GOOD
NIGHT
STO-
RY...

"AR-
GUING"
WITH
YOU...
...WAS
MORE
FUN
THAN I
EXPECT-
ED.





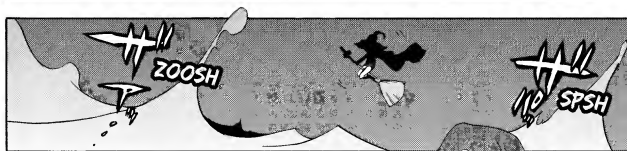






**TUNING
BLADE!**







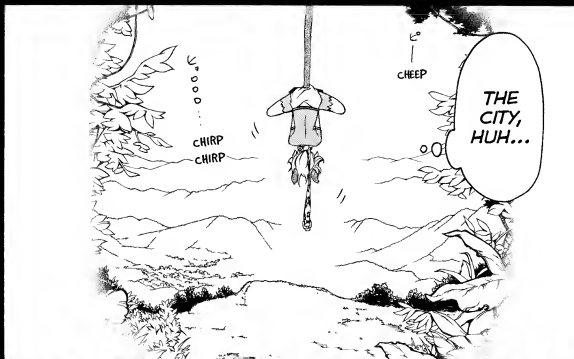
BEAR
WITH
ME!





Sign: Library





HIME-
SAAAN!

I DUNNO.
SHE WAS
HURT
PRETTY
BADLY
...



カ
SLIDE
カ
SLIDE
カ

Y'THINK
THE YAMA-
BIKO THAT
ATTACKED
IS UP
YET?



NOM
ぼん
NOM
まん

ぼん
OM
ぼん
NOM

POUT
ぽん
ぽん
ぽん

POUT
ぽん
ぽん
ぽん
POUT

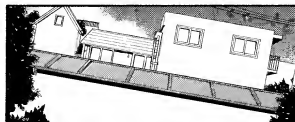
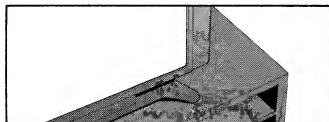
BREAK-
FAST
DELIV-
ERY!

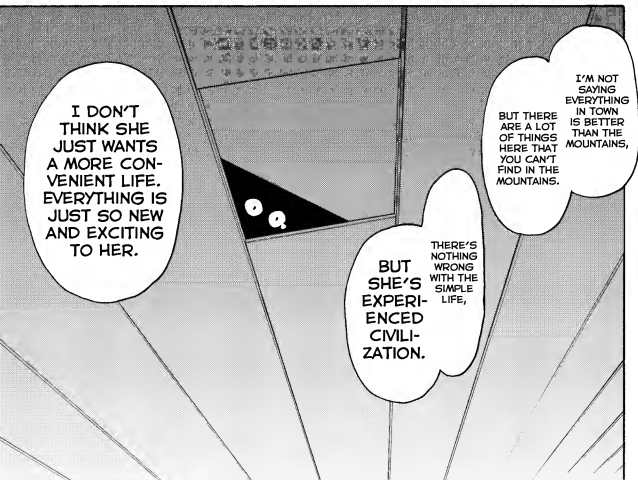
SHE'S
ANGRY
...

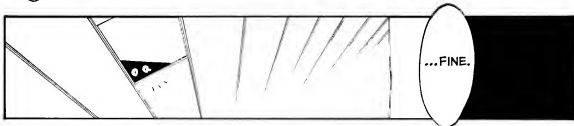
SHE'S
EAT-
ING...













Bag: Hakone





DUE TO
HER DEMONIC
POWER, ONE
SLIP-UP
COULD
RESULT IN
UTTER
DISASTER.

SHE'S
A WILD
DEMON,
AFTER
ALL.



SHE'S
TOO
UN-
TAMED
TO BE
LIVING
IN
TOWN.

FOR
ONE,

WHY?

Sign: Welcome!



DEMONS
THAT HAVE
FALLEN
ONCE
ARE VERY
SUSCEP-
TIBLE TO
REPEATED
FALLINGS.

AND
SEC-
OND,



...

THEY'RE
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
FROM HUMAN
HALF-
DEMONS.

LIKELY
BECAUSE
DEMONS
LEAN
TOWARDS
THE
OTHER
REALM.



...TO
LEARN
ALL
SORTS
OF
THINGS
HERE.

BUT I
WANT
...

くす...
sob

くす
sob



くす
sob
sniff







WE'LL
SETTLE
EVERY-
THING BY
THEN.

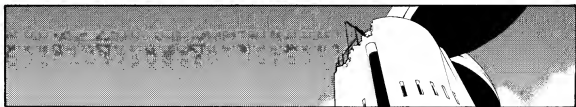
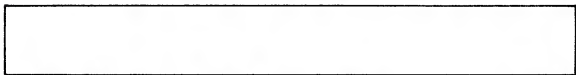
JUST
WAIT
UNTIL
OCTO-
BER.

OCTO-
BER.

THEN
YOU
CAN
COME
BACK
TO
TOWN.
WE'LL
WEL-
COME
YOU
WITH
OPEN
ARMS.

WHEN
OCTOBER
ROLLS
AROUND,
THE WORLD
WILL BE A
PLACE WHERE
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT
FALLING
ANYMORE.





WE MUST
NOW TAKE
DISCIPLINARY
ACTION
AGAINST
DIRECTOR
SHIDARE
MORIOKA.

?!

...SHIDARE
HAS GONE
MISSING.



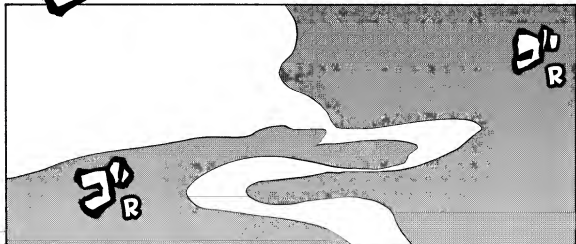
THE POLICE,
JSDF, CABINET
OFFICE, AS WELL
AS ALL NATIONAL
DEFENSE
ORGANIZATIONS
ARE UNDER THE
COMMAND OF
THE SENATE AS
OF NOW.

AS
SUCH,

SHI-
DARE-
SAN...?



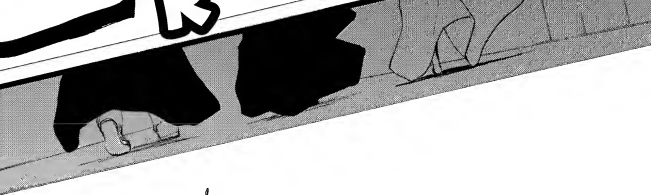
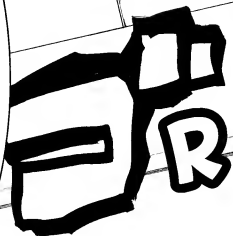
WHAT...
WHAT
IS THE
SENATE
TRYING
TO DO?!





THE
SENATE WILL
HEREBY BE
PLACED ON
RED ALERT...

...AND KEEP
CONTACT WITH
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD TO AN
ABSOLUTE
MINIMUM.





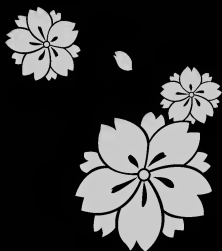
SHOOM



To be Continued III

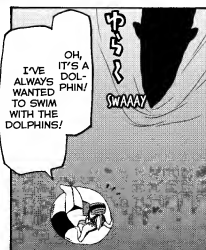
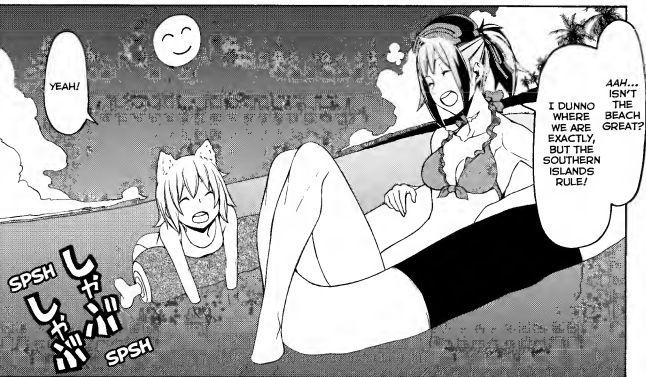
**YOZAKURA
QUARTET**

17





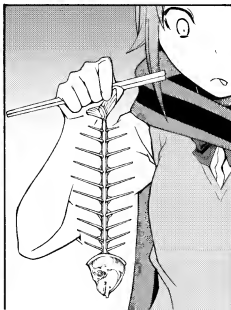
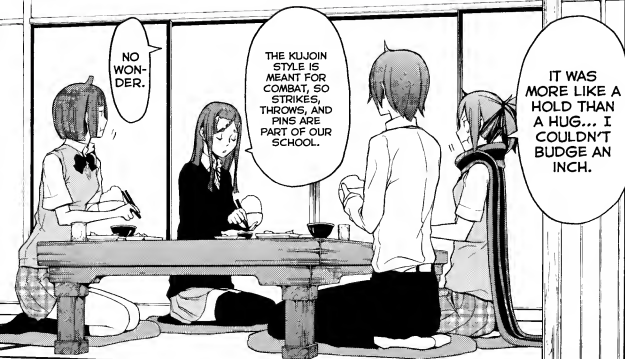
I went ahead and threw in a cheery side story.
It takes place shortly before the yamabiko showed up.





*Iruka means dolphin in Japanese.









PIT
PIT

SHEESH...



I SAID
I'M FINE!

AS YOU WISH. I SHALL
PICK YOU UP
AFTER SCHOOL.



I'M GO-
ING TO
TAKE THE
TRAIN.

THE
MASTER
WILL
SCOLD
ME IF I
DO NOT.



SUMMER
BREAK'S
RIGHT
AROUND
THE
CORNER.
DO YOU
HAVE ANY
PLANS,
IRUKA-
CHAN?



I
CAN'T
BLAME
HIM.

SORRY.
MY FA-
THER IS
SUCH A
WORRY-
WART...



HUH?!
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT.

NO...I
THOUGHT
I'D CON-
TRIBUTE
TO THE
HOUSE,
SINCE
I'M LIVING
WITH YOU.



IS
THERE
SOME-
THING
YOU
WANT
TO BUY?

WUMP
THAT'S
SLO-
GGER.



I
THINK
...

...I'LL
LOOK
FOR A
PART-
TIME
JOB.

SOME-
THING
TELLS
ME SHE
JUST
WANTS
MONEY
FOR
SNACK-
ING.

THE
LEAST
I CAN
DO IS
COVER
FOOD
EX-
PEN-
SES...

I'M
IMPOS-
ING ON
YOU,
AFTER
ALL.

THAT
WON'T
DO.

YOU
ALREADY
SPAR
WITH ME,
AND YOU
GO ON
PATROL.

たい焼き

Sign: Taiyaki

I'D
APPRE-
CIATE
IT.

WANT
ME TO
ASK THE
NEIGH-
BORHOOD
COMMIT-
TEE FOR
YOU?

WELL, IF
THAT'S
WHAT YOU
WANT,
THEN I
WON'T
STOP
YOU.

ドン

ディン

SIGH...
HE
REALLY
DID
COME
PICK
ME UP.

WHAT WILL
I DO WITH
JEEVES?

GREAT,
LET ME
GIVE YOU
DIREC-
TIONS.

A-ABSO-
LUTELY!

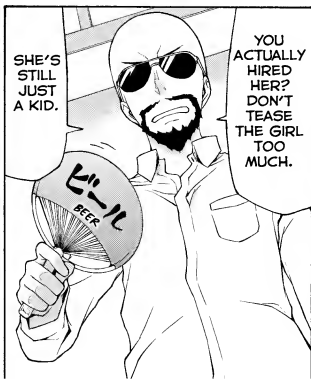
HEYA-
I FOUND
A JOB
FOR
YOU.
IN-
TER-
EST-
ED?

HELLO?
HIME-
SAN?

ISN'T
THIS
...?

Sign: Sakurashin Police Department

ちか、
CHIK

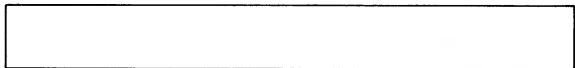




NOT
BAD, I
GUESS!

EH...





THAT
WAS QUICK.

GIVING
UP ON
THE
JOB?



MUNCH

か
っ
...

か
っ
...

MUNCH

YES
...

I SAID DON'T SWEAT IT.

I PROMISE TO PAY YOU BACK FOR ALL THE FOOD SOME-DAY...

'ZAT SO?

I'LL FOCUS ON THAT INSTEAD OF WORK-ING...

I REALIZED I STILL SEVERELY LACK TRAIN-ING.

THAT MEANS YOU'RE STRON-GER TODAY THAN YOU WERE YESTER-DAY, IRUKA!

ONCE YOU GET FULL OF YOUR-SELF, THAT'S IT! OTHERWISE, YOU'LL GET A LITTLE BETTER EVERY DAY.

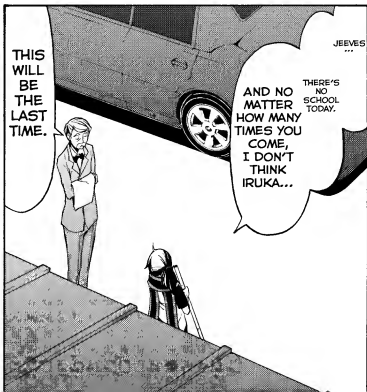
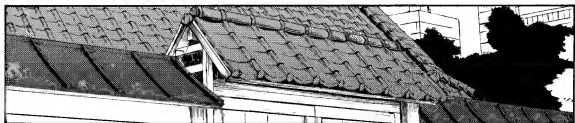
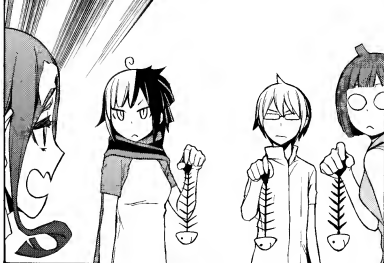
...THE FACT THAT YOU REAL-IZED THAT MEANS YOU STILL HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM TO GROW.

BUT Y'KNOW ...



I SEE. STRON-GER THAN YESTER-DAY...

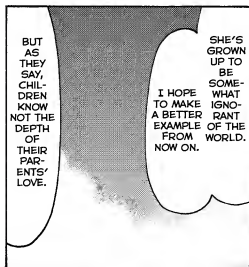






OH!
IT'S A
PLEASURE
TO MEET
YOU, SIR.

I APO-
LOGIZE
FOR NOT
COMING
TO GREET
YOU
SOONER.
I AM
IRUKA'S
FATHER.



BUT
AS
THEY
SAY,
CHILD-
REN
KNOW
NOT THE
DEPTH
OF
THEIR
PAR-
ENTS'
LOVE.

SHE'S
GROWN
UP TO
BE
SOME-
WHAT
IGNO-
RANT
OF THE
WORLD.
I HOPE
TO MAKE
A BETTER
EXAMPLE
FROM
NOW ON.

IT
SEEMS
I MAY
HAVE
SHEL-
TERED
HER A
BIT TOO
MUCH...

OH,
IT'S NO
TROU-
BLE.
SHE'S
A BIG
HELP.

I WANTED TO
THANK YOU
IN PERSON
FOR TAKING
CARE OF MY
DAUGHTER.



SURE
THING!

I WOULD
GREATLY
APPRECI-
ATE IT IF
YOU WOULD
SHOW HER
MORE
OF THE
WORLD.
PLEASE
CONTINUE
TO TAKE
CARE
OF MY
DAUGHTER.



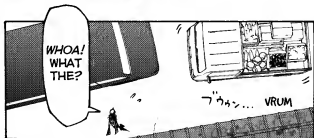
...
IRUKA SAID
SHE WOULD
PAY ME BACK
SOME-
DAY,
SO I'LL
JUST WAIT
FOR THAT
TIME TO
COME!



BE-
SIDES...

NO,
THAT'S
QUITE
ALL
RIGHT,
REALLY!
SHE'S
A BIG
HELP!

OH, AND
PLEASE
ALLOW ME
TO PAY
FOR HER
LIVING
EXPENS-
ES...



WHOA!
WHAT
THE?

VRUM



I SEE.
IN
THAT
CASE...

SNAP



WOW!
THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

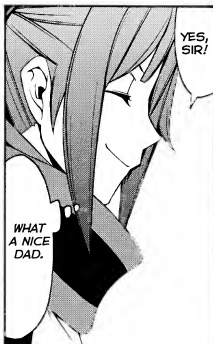
THESE
ARE
FROM MY
MODEST
FIELD.
PLEASE
TAKE
THEM.



HEY!
GUYS!

VEG-
GIES!

WOW!
VEG-
ETABLES!



YES,
SIR!

WHAT
A NICE
DAD.



IT'S
NICE TO
HANDLE
DIRT IN-
STEAD OF
A SWORD
ONCE IN
A WHILE.
I RECOM-
MEND
IT!

CRUNCH

IF IT WILL
HELP MY
DAUGHTER
IN AIDING
THIS TOWN,
THEN I
WILL DO
ANYTHING
I CAN.

WELL,
THEN.

I ALSO
TRAINED
IN THIS
TOWN
WHEN
I WAS
YOUNG.

THAT'S
TOO
MUCH,
REAL-
LY...

TOMA-
TODD!

DAIKODON!

I'LL
BRING
MORE
EVERY
WEEK, SO
PLEASE
HELP
YOUR-
SELF.

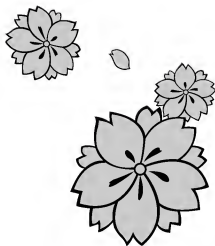
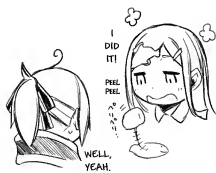


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YOZAKURA
QUARTET 16



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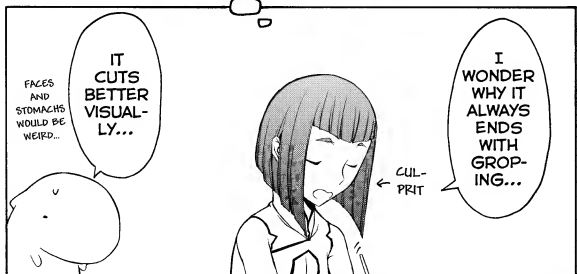


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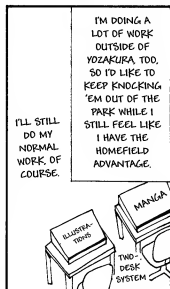
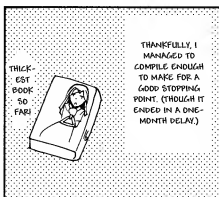
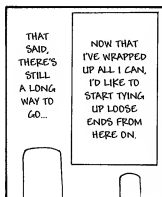


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POSTSCRIPT MANGA



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